

Israelis in Oman for water talks

MUSCAT (R) — An Israeli delegation arrived in Oman on Friday for multilateral Middle East peace talks, the first visit by Israeli officials to a Gulf Arab state. Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin told Reuters after arriving in Muscat that the visit "is important because it is broadening our horizons and enabling us to reach out to areas we had not reached before." Mr. Beilin, leading his country's team to the Middle East water resources talks due to start on Sunday, was accompanied by Israeli journalists. Diplomats had speculated that Oman might not allow Israeli journalists in. The Israeli team flew to Muscat on an Egyptian plane from Cairo and not as predicted on a direct flight from Israel. Mr. Beilin, who played a key role in negotiating the Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace deal, said he would be holding bilateral talks with Omani officials "about economic options when peace prevails." Arab diplomats see the visit to Oman as breaking new ground for Israel, which has long sought acceptance by suspicious Arab neighbours including Gulf Arab oil states physically remote from the conflict but wielding mighty economic clout.

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Berri arrives today

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri arrives in Amman Saturday on a five-day visit during which he will hold talks with His Majesty King Hussein, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Lower House Speaker Taher Al Masri on bilateral relations, the Middle East peace process and regional developments.

Sources said Mr. Berri "will be received in Jordan not only as speaker of the Lebanese parliament but also as a major national Lebanese leader."

They said the programme of the visit reflects the important political dimensions of the visit, Mr. Berri's first to Jordan.

Mr. Berri is leader of the Shiite Amal militia, which is close to the Syrian government.

His visit to Jordan comes at a time when Syria's relations with both Jordan and Lebanon are growing stronger.

The three countries have expressed satisfaction at the level of coordination they have on the peace process.

Sources said the strength of Jordanian-Lebanese relations was demonstrated when the two countries cooperated and exchanged security information to arrest suspects in the assassination of Jordanian diplomat Nayef Al Maayteh in Beirut in February.

U.S. launches probe into Iraq 'friendly' fire

Flights temporarily halted after U.S. planes down own 'copters killing 26

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States on Friday suspended air patrols by combat planes over northern Iraq for one day to reinforce safety procedures that failed in Thursday's shootdown of two U.S. helicopters that killed 21 allied military officers and 5 Kurdish officials.

President Bill Clinton promised that an investigation of the accidental downing of the helicopters would be completed as soon as possible and all the facts would be made public.

"We are going to stay on top of this, work through it and make a full report to the American people," he said.

Fifteen Americans, five Kurds, three Turkish officers, two British officers and one French officer were killed when the two Blackhawk UH-60 helicopters in which they were flying were shot down by U.S. warplanes Thursday.

Mr. Clinton, speaking with reporters at the start of a media roundtable discussion on health care reform, said he had met with his foreign policy advisers Friday morning to discuss the accident.

He said investigators had reached the site of the calamity and would conduct a "thorough and vigorous" probe of the cause of the friendly fire shootdown. Mr. Clinton said those who died were perform-

ing "a very valuable function" in protecting Iraqi Kurds, and that the U.S.-led operation would continue.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said that initial reports blaming Iraq for the shooting down showed the anti-Baghdad bias of the United States and the West.

"This tendentious approach in levelling accusations against Iraq betrays premeditated intentions against Iraq. It also reveals the truth about many previous tendentious accusations regarding incidents that took place in the northern region in which Iraq was falsely accused in a tendentious, hasty manner," Iraqi radio quoted the agency's political editor as saying.

Neither Washington nor Western powers accused Iraq of being behind the downing, but Iraqi opposition groups who first broke the news said the helicopters were brought down by Iraq.

The political editors' broadcast report, received in Nicosia, said: "It seems they were forced to tell the truth because those who were killed in the incident were of several nationalities and the truth could not be hidden. Therefore, their black intentions to involve Iraq in any matter were exposed."

While the F-15 fighter pilots were being given additional safety briefings Friday, AWACS early warning radar planes continued operating over the "no-fly" zone north of the 36th Parallel, said U.S. Defence officials.

Although no attack aircraft were in the air over northern Iraq Friday, the AWACS could call in jets in the event Iraqi aircraft were spotted violating the "no-fly" zone, the officials said.

Defence Secretary William Perry said it would take weeks to sift through the evidence to ascertain why two F-15 fighters shot down the two army helicopters.

In its first official identification of a victim, the defence Department said Second Lieutenant Laura Ashley Piper was aboard one of the helicopters shot down.

Officials speaking privately said U.S. Army Colonel Richard A. Mulhern also was among the victims, although his identity had not been publicly announced. The Washington Post reported Col. Mulhern had recently taken command of the military coordination centre at Zakho and the colonel he replaced was also among those killed. The centre provides observers and liaisons with the Kurds who are being protected by allied forces there.

Mr. Gore, echoing the widespread euphoria, said the treaty's impact would be "momentous."

Peter Sutherland, GATT director general, insists the accords will set the world on the path of balanced economic growth for the 21st century.

To formalise the 26,000-page treaty printed on thick vellum paper tied with the blue ribbons, ministers were filing to the front of a vast ochre-coloured hall to sign 10 at a time.

But although 125 countries were by this week formally associated with GATT's Uruguay Round and invited to Marrakesh, it was not clear exactly how many were present and would put their names to the documents.

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HORSE RACE: His Majesty King Hussein on Friday presents awards to winners of a 55-kilometre horse race as Her Royal Highness Princess Alia (second from right) looks on (see page 9) (Petra photo)

Jordan sends lone observer to multilateral water talks

King regrets peace process stagnation

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Yemenis in contact to settle conflict

SANAA (R) — Yemen's top leaders have intensified contacts to help settle a crisis threatening Yemen's fragile unity, political and diplomatic sources said on Friday.

They said a meeting in March in Oman between President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his rival Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beidh as well as Arab mediation led to an apparent thaw at the personal level between them.

"Contacts have become more frequent between the president and his deputy to avert any military flare up in the country," said an official in Mr. Saleh's General Peoples Congress (GPC).

Differences that emerged between the two men last year are threatening Yemen's unity, paralysing the government and have sparked clashes between rival army units.

One diplomatic source said lack of confidence between the two men, who ruled Conservative North and Marxist South Yemen respectively until the 1990 merger, reached a low ebb before the new mediation efforts.

"So, the importance of improving personal relations cannot be belittled," he said.

Mr. Saleh had said his talks with Mr. Beidh in Oman were positive on the private level, but not as far as the crisis was concerned.

A visit by Egyptian Information Minister Safwat Sharif and UAE Foreign Minister Rashed Abdullah Al Nuaimi, has helped to further improve relations between Mr. Saleh and Mr. Beidh, who leads the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP), political sources said.

The two men had in February signed a national reconciliation accord addressing their differences over political,

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GATT deal signed, but hurdles remain

MARRAKESH (R) — The world's trading nations gathered on Friday to sign an historic treaty expected to inject new dynamics into the global economy.

Among the first to put their signatures to the accords at the start of a four-hour ceremony in this oasis city's Moorish-styled conference centre were ministers from Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh and Belgium.

In all, over 100 countries were to endorse the pact, concluded last December after more than seven years of tortuous negotiations in the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

But apart from a mounting debate on whether some of the world's least-developed states

actually stand to lose from the massive market-opening accord, hurdles still remain before it can be turned into reality.

In key legislatures from the United States to India, there could be fierce opposition to ratification of the GATT treaty, which will subject domestic commercial and business policies to full international scrutiny for the first time.

Although U.S. Vice-President Al Gore came to Marrakesh to underline the Clinton administration's support, officials said congressional approval was not a foregone conclusion.

And in speeches over the past four days, many of the ministers gathered in Marrakesh voiced fears that the major powers would continue

wielding a big stick to their own benefit.

Even squabbling among the top trading powers continued to the last moment. The United States and Japan reported only minor progress in resolving a dispute on Japanese market openings and European Union (EU) states fought among themselves over banana import rules.

Non-governmental aid groups, supported by findings of the Economist Intelligence Unit in London, say the big traders — the United States, the European Union and Japan — will gain from the accord but many African states will emerge as losers.

However, the general mood in Marrakesh — chosen to hail Morocco's own progress towards a market-based econo-

mic system — was optimistic. Mr. Gore, echoing the widespread euphoria, said the treaty's impact would be "momentous."

Peter Sutherland, GATT director general, insists the accords will set the world on the path of balanced economic growth for the 21st century.

To formalise the 26,000-page treaty printed on thick vellum paper tied with the blue ribbons, ministers were filing to the front of a vast ochre-coloured hall to sign 10 at a time.

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NATO jet hit by Bosnia ground fire

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnian Serbs shelled the Muslim enclave of Gorazde on Friday and a French reconnaissance plane flying a mission over the city was hit by ground fire.

"The situation is again very serious in Gorazde," said Major Rob Annink, a U.N. spokesman in Sarajevo.

Bosnian Serb forces gained ground in a daylight attack from the east and northeast of the city, 55 kilometres south-east of Sarajevo, he said.

Two British liaison workers in the area were badly wounded and required evacuation, Maj. Annink said.

U.N. aid workers in Gorazde said the city's centre was under heavy shelling, and refugees were streaming in from outlying areas.

The escalating confrontations raised the possibility of new North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) air strikes.

A Serb offensive on Gorazde prompted NATO air strikes last Sunday and Monday. Asked whether more air strikes were possible, Maj. Annink said: "We are ready for all possible means of action."

Bosnian Serbs had threatened to shoot down NATO planes after the alliance raids Sunday and Monday.

At the Italian base for many NATO jets enforcing a "no-fly" zone over Bosnia, NATO officials said a French plane was hit by ground fire while flying over the Gorazde area Friday afternoon.

The Etendard IV-P plane, from the French carrier Clemenceau in the Adriatic Sea, returned safely, according to NATO. The source of the ground fire was not known.

The Serb aggression in Gorazde did not bode well for peace talks in the Bosnian Serb stronghold of Pale with international mediators and Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic.

Bosnian radio alleged that Serbs were moving up heavy weapons to renew artillery attacks on Sarajevo, which has been mostly quiet since a truce took effect Feb. 10 between the city's Serb besiegers and Muslim-led government defenders.

U.N. officials could not confirm that report.

The earlier NATO air strikes near Gorazde caused little apparent damage, but they infuriated Bosnian Serbs, who severed contacts with the United Nations, started harassing peacekeepers and expelled American journalists from their territory.

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Christopher says U.S. will continue to stand by Israel

WASHINGTON (USIA) — "Israel is an extraordinary place and the Israelis are extraordinary people," Secretary of State Warren Christopher said at an April 14 celebration of Israeli "independence day."

The event at the Israeli embassy marked the 46th anniversary of the founding of the state of Israel.

Mr. Christopher lauded the "remarkable" accomplishments of the Israeli people and noted: "In a sense you have triumphed over history and defeated those forces that have sought to deny the Jewish people security and even the semblance of a normal life."

Turning to current events, the secretary expressed outrage and sadness over the violence to which Israeli citizens continue to be exposed, but he also struck an optimistic note. "There is a real potential for peace in a way that has never existed before, not only with your Palestinian neighbours but with the Arab states as well," he said.

Mr. Christopher also affirmed the strength of U.S.-Israeli ties. "I want to make clear to you in unmistakable terms that the United States will continue to stand with Israel," he said. "We believe in the idea of Israel, and we have an unshakable commitment to your security and well-being."

Following is the official text of Mr. Christopher's remarks, as prepared for delivery:

"I'm honoured and delighted to be here this evening to help you celebrate the 46th anniversary of the founding of the state of Israel. Above all I feel a real sense of pride in being associated and identified with this occasion. Israel is an extraordinary place and Israelis are extraordinary people."

"You are a nation of doers; and what you have done and accomplished over the past four decades — in the face of extraordinary adversity — is a remarkable testament to your special qualities. You have succeeded in building a remarkable democracy, absorbed Jews from the all over the world, and become world leaders in high technology. And you have managed to achieve all of this while preserving your humanity and your sense of justice. In a sense you have triumphed over history and defeated those forces that have sought to deny the Jewish people security and even the semblance of a normal life."

"Yet there are still challenges to be overcome. I wish I could say tonight that Israel was fully at peace on this independence day, that terror had stopped and that Israelis could

feel a real sense of security every day of their lives. I feel both outraged and saddened here tonight that Israel's citizens are still exposed to the terror of extremists who want to deny Israel that security. No nation should have to live this way."

"At the same time, there is a real potential for peace in a way that has never existed before, not only with your Palestinian neighbours but with the Arab states as well. We will push the process of reconciliation that must succeed if peace is to be sustained. And we know we have a very strong and determined partner in Israel."

"First, Israelis want peace; in addition to your search for security, the search for peace has been your highest national priority. Moreover, Israelis are courageous and determined enough to stay the course for peace; these qualities have been among your greatest national assets. I am convinced that you will not allow extremists on either side to derail the negotiations, to defeat your purpose, and to shape the future."

"Finally, I want to make clear to you in unmistakable terms that the United States will continue to stand with Israel."

U.N. readies first Iraqi compensation awards

GENEVA (R) — The United Nations said on Friday that experts had recommended a total of \$3 million in awards to compensate a first set of 1,100 victims of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

The governing council of the U.N. Compensation Commission will rule on the experts' recommendations at its next session, to be held in Geneva from May 24-27.

Payments are expected to be made to this priority group of victims around July, according to U.N. and diplomatic sources.

A U.N. statement said the 1,100 claimants, from 18 nations, were among 5,000 individuals who have filed claims in the so-called "B" category for serious injury or death of a relative resulting from Iraq's 1990-91 occupation of Kuwait.

Each claimant is entitled to \$2,500 if he or she can prove serious injury or death of a relative. Each family may receive a maximum of \$10,000.

"Category 'B' claims are the first to be considered and concern the most sensitive humanitarian cases — deaths and serious physical and mental injuries," a U.N. statement said.

The recommendation was made by a panel of three commissioners.

Kurtzer: Peace and stability top U.S. Mideast policy concerns

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Peace and stability in the Middle East are among the highest U.S. foreign policy priorities, administration officials told the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee for Europe and the Middle East Wednesday.

"The single largest line item in the administration's proposed international affairs budget for FY 1995 — \$5.225 billion — is for the Middle East peace process," Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Dan Kurtzer said in testimony on U.S. foreign assistance to the Middle East.

"The president's FY 1995 budget request maintains current aid levels to Israel," he said. "These funds play a direct and vital role in promoting our objectives in the peace process."

Also testifying at the hearing chaired by Lee Hamilton (Democrat-Indiana) were Margaret Carpenter, assistant administrator for Asia and the Near East at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and Frederick C. Smith, acting deputy assistant secretary of defence for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs.

In his opening remarks Mr. Kurtzer said that as a result of the September 1993, signing of the declaration of principles between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel, the U.S. pledged \$500 million over five years in assistance to Gaza and the West

Bank, including \$125 million in Overseas Private Investment Corporation resources and, in the first two years, \$150 million in USAID-administered programmes. The United States has made an additional substantial contribution to United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA)," he said.

Turning to the peace process, Mr. Kurtzer said bilateral negotiations are continuing on all tracks and "multilateral negotiations have moved from essentially academic exchanges to concrete actions." Jordan and Israel have signed a common agenda "representing much substantive agreement" on how to structure their bilateral talks.

"All of these negotiations are directly supported by U.S. foreign assistance," Mr. Kurtzer stressed. "The president's FY 1995 budget request maintains current aid levels to Israel," he said, and funding "is designed to strengthen a free and democratic Israel as well as support our peace process goals."

At the same time, U.S. military assistance supports major weapons systems such as the advanced F-15-I and F-16 fighter aircraft, and the purchase of SAAR class missile boats for Israel's coastal protection, and enables Israel to engage in significant military-related research and development.

Ms. Carpenter, in her re-

marks on USAID initiatives, said United States economic assistance is "absolutely vital to helping forward an agenda of peace."

USAID's major objective in the region is to invigorate economic growth through support for economic reform and expansion of private-sector initiatives, Ms. Carpenter said. "Overall, our programmes are designed to expand access and opportunities for the poor, give citizens a greater voice in economic decisions, and support sound environmental management."

In the coming months, Ms. Carpenter said, USAID will begin implementing new projects in health, democracy, housing, private enterprise and environmental management — particularly water, wastewater and sewage treatment systems.

"A crucial aspect of USAID efforts in each of these areas is to support the creation of institutional structures necessary for Palestinians to assume responsibility for conduct of economic and social activity," she said.

As an example, Ms. Carpenter cited a USAID project with the Palestinian Housing Council that will permit construction of new residences and upgrading of existing ones, and the construction of six apartment buildings beginning in June.

Many of USAID's activities will continue to be implemented through private voluntary organisations in the

region, Ms. Carpenter added, noting that USAID has no personnel presently in the occupied territories.

Mr. Smith, testifying on the administration's FY '95 defence package, said that of the total \$3,111-million requested, \$3,107 million has been requested for "our principal partners in the Middle East peace process, Egypt, Israel and Jordan."

If the bilateral and multilateral peace efforts are to succeed, he stressed, "Israel's security must not be in doubt." While the threat to Israel today is at "an historic low," real challenges are ballistic missiles coupled with biological, chemical and nuclear warheads, he explained.

"Israel regards Iran and Iraq as its principal long-term strategic threats, and Syria remains a conventional threat to Israel," he noted. "The most immediate threats for Israel are terrorism and the daily violence in the occupied territories as the peace process moves forward."

Mr. Smith said the United States will continue to supplement Israel's military financing through extraordinary authorities, such as early disbursement of funds and the transfer of excess defence articles under the Southern Region Amendment, and the drawdown of up to \$700 million of defence items from Defence Department stocks and war reserve stockpiles.

Farhat appeals to U.S. Congress for help in Kuwaiti murder and rape case

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An American citizen of Lebanese origin has appealed to the U.S. Congress for intervention to secure justice for his family members who he says suffered atrocities in the hands of vengeful Kuwaitis immediately after the Iraqi occupation of their country in early 1991.

Naim Farhat's call on the American lawmakers comes amid indications that a Kuwaiti appeals court is poised to reduce the life sentence handed down to a former police officer who was found guilty of killing Mr. Farhat's father, Ismail, and brother, Osama.

The Kuwaiti state security court which tried the case cleared the defendant, Jaber Al Omairi, of a charge of raping Mr. Farhat's sister, Naimat, now 35, who was also shot in the head in the March 2, 1991, incident at the Farhat residence in Kuwait.

The case is well-known in the Gulf and elsewhere but is the only one involving human rights abuse by Kuwaitis following the Gulf war.

The case is of high significance to regional and international human rights organisations which have picked up the cause of the hundreds of non-Kuwaitis, including Jordanians and Palestinians, who were killed, raped, detained, tortured or expelled from the emirate following the Gulf crisis.

"We bow in respect to Mr. Farhat, who almost single-handedly fought the battle and is continuing to fight despite a strong Kuwaiti campaign to discredit him and bury the case," said a human rights activist who said his organisation was awaiting a final judgement after appeal in the Farhat case before filing cases of rights violations against the Kuwaiti government.

In his appeal to the U.S. Congress, Mr. Farhat, who lives in Santa Cruz, California, renewed his charge that the attack on his family was ordered by senior Kuwaiti government officials seeking to vent their vengeance on non-Kuwaitis who remained in the emirate during the seven-month Iraqi occupation.

The family lived in Kuwait for more than 30 years and Ismail Farhat was working for the government when the Iraqis invaded in August 1990.

"Despite considerable risks to their lives, my family members actively worked for the (Kuwaiti) resistance, by channelling money, food and supplies to resistance fighters to Kuwaiti citizens and non-Kuwaiti citizens alike during the Iraqi occupation," Mr. Farhat wrote in his appeal to the U.S. Congress. A copy of the appeal was made available to the Jordan Times.

Following the liberation of the emirate, when the restored emiri regime proclaimed martial law, "thousands of non-citizen Kuwaiti residents were detained indefinitely and incommunicado, forcefully interrogated, tortured, denied due process (of the law) and deported in direct violation of well-defined laws to the contrary," said the appeal.

"This is the context in which the Kuwaiti government ordered and executed the orders to assassinate my family."

"If the Kuwaiti justice system were to fully investigate and prosecute all the guilty parties involved in the Kuwaiti government crimes against the Farhat family, I feel confident that the trail of guilt would lead to the highest levels in the government of Kuwait," Mr. Farhat told the lawmakers.

Arguing that the Kuwaiti

courts always gave preferential treatment to Kuwaiti citizens regardless of the nature of the crime involved, and citing cases to support this argument, Mr. Farhat wrote that the government of the emirate had sought to shield high-level officials by singling out Mr. Omairi for trial after heavy pressure was brought to bear upon the regime by an international campaign waged by the Farhats.

The State Security Court found Mr. Omairi guilty of two premeditated murders and one attempted murder, but handed down less than the maximum sentence of death. Mr. Farhat pointed out. Nor was the former Kuwaiti police officer found guilty of raping Miss Naimat.

The Lebanese woman travelled to Kuwait to testify in court last year that Mr. Omairi came to the Farhat residence, begged Ismail and Osama Farhat, took her to another room and raped her twice, shot her in the head, and then shot and killed the two men. She survived the injuries but is semi-paralysed. She lives with her brother and mother in the U.S.

International human rights organisations and lawyers unions have ridiculed the Kuwaiti justice system for ignoring key evidence in the case and passing down a water-down verdict and sentence.

According to sources in Kuwait, Mr. Omairi has appealed the sentence and all indications are that the prison sentence will be reduced when the appeals court rules later this month.

Mr. Farhat, who estimates that he spent more than \$500,000 and the last three years in pursuing the case, is asking the U.S. Congress to: — Extend a chance to him and his sister to testify before Congress; — Hold an investigation

into the Farhat case specifically and into the human rights situation in Kuwait generally to determine how the U.S. can be a positive influence in changing the Kuwaiti government's defiance of human rights laws."

Enact legislation that requires Kuwait, under severe penalty, to satisfactorily settle the Farhat case and any other human rights cases affecting U.S. citizens in Kuwait.

Enact legislation that allows American citizens to sue foreign governments in U.S. courts and provide U.S. government guarantees for payment of penalties due to citizens who prevail in their suits against criminal governments.

Against the background of a possible reduction of the sentence already passed on the defendant, Mr. Farhat is seeking:

"Full justice: all guilty parties to the crimes against the Farhat family be tried, convicted and sentenced to the fullest extent of the law."

"Appropriate reparations be paid to the Farhat family, consistent with judgements in similar international human rights cases."

"The Kuwaiti government pay costs of removal, transport and burial in Lebanon of the remains of Ismail Farhat and Osama Farhat."

"Immediate release of all Farhat properties and moneys that still remain in Kuwait or under Kuwaiti government control to the Farhat family."

"An end to human rights crimes in Kuwait and let justice be served and compensation made to all past victims of Kuwaiti government crimes."

"A formal, written, public apology from the Kuwaiti government to the Farhat family for that government's crimes against us."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Saudi Arabia may buy submarines

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia may consider buying submarines to protect its Gulf and Red Sea coastlines, a senior Saudi official said. The official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted Deputy Defence and Aviation Minister Prince Abdul Rahman Ben Abdul Aziz as saying "buying submarines is a possibility. But there are many factors involved in having submarines."

Prince Abdul Rahman was speaking at a graduation ceremony at a college of naval technical studies on Wednesday, SPA said. He did not say whether Saudi Arabia, which depends for most of its income on oil exports carried by tankers from the Gulf and the Red Sea, had started negotiations to buy submarines. Gulf Arab states, none of which have submarines, expressed anxiety last year at the purchase by their neighbour Iran of two Russian-made submarines and naval mines. Iran's relations with Saudi Arabia have been strained this year by disputes over oil production and the number of Iranian pilgrims to the kingdom to perform the Muslim Haj pilgrimage. Prince Abdul Rahman said the location of Saudi Arabia both on the shallow Gulf and the deeper Red Sea meant it might have to operate different kinds of submarines. "We cannot have one submarine for the Gulf and the Red Sea. We have responsibilities for both our eastern and western coasts and this has to be taken into consideration," he said.

Visa on arrival for GCC residents

DUBAI (AP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE), in an attempt to boost tourism and commerce, will relax entrance procedures for white-collar foreigners resident in neighbouring Gulf countries as of May 10. The local press Thursday referred to a cabinet decision allowing expatriate residents in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states to be granted a one month visa on the spot at any entry point. The only exemption is the category of "labourers." Colonel Juma Amani, director of naturalisation department in Dubai, was quoted as saying the move was aimed at boosting the economy by helping businessmen and tourists enter the country. "We want to encourage businessmen to come to Dubai and make use of the many commercial and tourist facilities here," he said. The UAE is member of the GCC, whose other members are Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman. Until now, all non-GCC nationals had to obtain visas in advance, part of strict rules to control the foreign work force flooding the region since the oil boom of the 1970s. Only nationals of the six GCC states are allowed entry without visas.

Algeria suspends French newspaper

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia has ordered the suspension of French language L'Independent newspaper for printing articles it said were a threat to public and state security, an official statement said. A Ministry of Communications statement carried by the official Algerian APS news agency monitored in Tunis said the order was effective immediately. A number of newspapers and publications have been suspended since late 1992 under emergency measures adopted in February that year. These gave the government powers to suspend publications they deem harmful to state and public security. Algeria's army-backed authorities are battling to contain a surge in violence they attribute to Islamic militants who want to establish an Islamic state in the country.

Iraq urges Turkey to break embargo for its own good

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Turkey should break the U.N.-imposed trade embargo with Iraq for its own economic well-being, the newspaper of Iraq's ruling Baath Party urged Friday.

The newspaper, Al Thawra, maintained that Turkey "possessed enough moral and legal justification for taking the pre-emptive."

The newspaper's comments, reported by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), were made as Turkish Foreign Minister Under-Secretary Ozdem Sanberk was in Baghdad for talks on the disposal of several million barrels of oil trapped in a pipeline that runs from Iraqi fields to Turkey's Mediterranean coast.

But the news agency report, monitored in Nicosia, did not mention Mr. Sanberk's visit or the talks.

Turkey used to earn up to \$250 million annually from pipeline royalties and has been pressing for the U.N. embargo to be lifted, at least as far as oil exports through Turkey are concerned.

Al Thawra urged Turkey to take the initiative in lifting the embargo in order to return to the level of economic development it had attained when its commercial relations with Iraq were active, INA reported.

"Salvaging the Turkish economy from the deteriorating situation it is suffering from lies in treating the exceptional conditions it is facing as a result of the embargo on Iraq," Al Thawra argued.

The embargo is to remain in place until Iraq complies with terms of the ceasefire that ended the Gulf war in February 1991.

U.N. experts already have destroyed the bulk of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and facilities to develop such arms. They are now in the process of setting up long-term monitoring of the country's arms industry.

Experts have said Turkey is concerned that the estimated

7.5 million barrels of oil that remain in the pipeline could erode the structure and render it unfit for use by the time the embargo is lifted and Iraq is allowed to resume its oil exports.

The pipeline has come under repeated attack from Kurdish rebels waging a separatist war in Turkey's southeast.

Mr. Sanberk's visit came in response to an invitation extended by his Iraqi counterpart, Riyadh Al Qaisi, who was in Ankara in January for talks on the pipeline and to seek Turkey's support for an end to the U.N. sanctions.

Turkey was a leading member of the U.S.-led anti-Iraq military coalition and allowed its territory to be used by allied planes for attacks against Iraqi targets during the war over Kuwait.

In recent months, Turkey has taken a more conciliatory approach to Iraq than the other coalition members and is the only one to have reopened its embassy in Baghdad.

Iraq lobbies Malaysia

Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Saeed Al Sahaf held talks in Malaysia on Friday to win support against the U.N. sanctions.

He called on Acting Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar and was scheduled to travel to Indonesia and India to lobby for lifting the sanctions.

"Malaysia is keen on seeing the sanctions being lifted provided Iraq complies with the conditions laid down by the United Nations," Mr. Syed Hamid told reporters after their talks.

"We want to see a return of normalcy to the region as we don't want the people of Iraq to continue suffering," said Mr. Syed Hamid, who is the law minister.

Officials said Mr. Sahaf is expected to hold talks with Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim and leave for Jakarta on Sunday.

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:30 Le Monde Sans Limites
18:30 Dossier De La Semaine
19:00 News in French
19:15 Ushuaia
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Charlie Chaplin
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Fresh Prince Of Bel Air
21:00 The Campbell
21:30 One To One
22:00 News In English
22:30 Feature film: "A Doll's House"

PRAYER TIMES
06:02 Fajr
06:42 (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:36 Dhur
16:12 Asr
19:08 Maghrib
20:29 Isha

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish, Tel. 810740
Archdiocese of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 630851
Tel. 625543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 652526
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 624932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER
Bulfinch supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Relative warm weather conditions will prevail with winds becoming northerly moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 15 / 28
Agaba 22 / 36
Deserts 13 / 31
Jordan Valley 20 / 35
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 30, Agaba 37 Humidity readings: Amman 12 per cent, Agaba 18 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDER

EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Fire Brigade 172, 621111, 637777
Blood Bank 75121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 895390
Public Security Department 63031
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
General Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 774111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 630381

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS
NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Kishan Khatun 790286
Dr. Yusef Rashid 896301
Dr. Fager Dabbas 780155
Dr. Abbas Haidan 885446
First pharmacy 661912
Al Azzam pharmacy 637035
Najmouh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsi pharmacy 637660
Najm pharmacy 847632
BRIDJ:
Dr. Al Omeri 272032
Alqas pharmacy (—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Farah Aqarawi 987725
Khalaf pharmacy 985417

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Hassan Medical Centre 81381332
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 642815
Akil Maternity, J. Amn 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mellah, J. Amman 661714
Palestine, Shamsi 661131
Shamsi Hospital 645845
University Hospital 6672279
Al-Mushar Hospital 6661237
The Islamic Abad 6616446
Al-Ahli, Abdali 771013
Italian, Al-Muhajir 7751126
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 89161175
Queen Alia Hospital 6224050
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Gov. Hospital (09)93223
Zarqa National Hospital (09)905040
Rifa' Hospital (09)96732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)99990
IRBID:
Princess Basmal Hospital (02)27553
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)27275

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)5200-5, where it should always be verified.
ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:30 Jakarta, Singapore (RJ)
07:45 New Delhi (RJ)
08:25 Agaba (RJ)
10:30 Dhahran (RJ)
10:40 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
11:00 Beirut (RJ)
11:00 Colombo (RJ)
16:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:25 Cairo (RJ)
19:20 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200
Don Al Nafes Hospital (02)27100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)914111

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:00 Beirut (RJ)
08:00 Agaba (RJ)
10:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:30 Paris (add) (RJ)
12:45 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
13:00 Brussels (RJ)
13:45 Cairo (RJ)
14:00 London (RJ)
14:00 Laraca (RJ)
15:00 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
15:05 Jeddah (RJ)
15:10 Damascus (RJ)
15:20 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)
04:20 Vienna (OA)
11:30 Sanaa (Y)
15:45 Rome (AZ)
19:45 Paris, Damascus (AF)
20:25 Amsterdam (KL)
01:25 Cairo (MS)
09:15 Beirut (ME)
12:30 Sanaa (Y)
12:30 Vienna (OA)
12:30 Dubai (EM)
23:55 Damascus, Paris (AF)
06:25 Cairo (MS)
01:15 Amsterdam (KL)
HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN
Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday
MARKET PRICES
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple 350 / 650
Banana (Malakassar) 600
Cabbage 200 / 220
Carrot 240 / 260
Cauliflower 150 / 160
Cucumbers (large) 180 / 120
Cucumbers (small) 300 / 200
Eggplant 200 / 150
Garlic 200 / 150
Grape Fruit 270 / 200
Green beans 380 / 280
Lemon 140 / 90
Marrow (large) 180 / 120
Marrow (small) 300 / 200
Mushrooms 480 / 300
Orange (dry) 380 / 200
Onion (green) 300 / 200
Peas 280 / 200
Pepper (hot) 600 / 400
Pepper (sweet) 520 / 320
Potato 360 / 240
Tomato 480 / 220
String beans 520 / 350

Jordan, Austria discuss setting up education and information exchange programmes in linguistics, foreign language training

By Ian Atalla
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An education and information exchange programme in linguistics and foreign language training currently under discussion between Austria and Jordan would aim at eliminating some of the inefficient English language teaching methods which cost the Arab World billions of dollars annually in mistakes and failures, according to Dr. Robert de Beaugrande, professor of English at the University of Vienna.

The proposed initiatives would also aim at bringing the Arabic language and its colloquial dialects out of their state of relative inaccessibility to foreign students and trainees, he said.

Dr. de Beaugrande spoke to

the Jordan Times on Thursday after having accompanied Austrian President Thomas Klestil's official state visit to Jordan. He said that the proposed programmes came as one step in underlining the current strengthening of relations between the two countries, "which come out of the fact that our country wants to take a firm and visible stand against the deepening divisions of North versus South and West versus East that have led to lamentable outbreaks of resentment and violence in all parts of the globe."

Dr. de Beaugrande said that in his view, traditional western methods of foreign language training "have not been sensitive to the context of the Arab World and the Arabs suffer a lot from importing these

teaching methods uncritically."

The result, he said, was an unavailability in the Middle East of competent English speakers to fill positions in the civil services and industry, "not to mention the human cost to those people who have not been trained properly in English."

On the other side of the coin, he said, it had been proven that current traditional language teaching methods are not successful in teaching Arabic as a foreign language.

"The Arabic language is exploding onto the world stage, and it simply cannot continue to be taught with inefficient methods."

Dr. de Beaugrande said that the programmes under discussion between Jordan and Austria

would involve the University of Vienna and Infoterm, the linguistics department of the Austrian government's Bureau of Standards.

Although the overall programme was still in the initial stage of discussion, he said, it would include among other things cooperation with Jordan's military to help improve its departments responsible for foreign language training and translation, the establishment of a studies databank on various Arabic dialects spoken in Jordan, and the offering of facilities in the University of Vienna's languages and linguistics departments for senior Jordanian academicians and military personnel to conduct Ph.D. and post-doctorate studies there.

Dr. de Beaugrande added

that after the finalisation of the outline of the proposed programmes, they would be presented to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, and "we hope that these programmes will be under his patronage."

"The eventual scale of the over-all programme depends on how well it runs," he said, adding that if the initial results showed promise, the programme could eventually be expanded.

He added that Infoterm might also be aiding the Arab League in the implementation of its recent decision to push for "the standardisation of Arabic terminology," and Austria hoped to open up similar academic and intellectual exchange initiatives with Palestinians after their realisation of self-government.

Jordanian Islamic council has plan for Afghan peace

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An umbrella organisation for Islamic Organisations and Societies in Jordan has appealed to all warring factions in Afghanistan to suspend their war for control over the war-shattered country and adopt a plan to restore peace in the country.

It was the first public comment from a Jordanian group on the continuing bloodshed in Afghanistan despite the withdrawal of the Red Army and the collapse of the Moscow-supported regime of President Najibullah in Kabul in 1992.

It was not immediately clear whether the Jordanian government, which has been calling for national reconciliation on Afghanistan, supported the call by the Council of Islamic Organisations and Societies in Jordan.

Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri was the latest international bid to put an end to the bloodshed among the Afghan factions, whose loyalties are determined by the volume of arms and ammunition provided by their backers.

Except for a four-day ceasefire during its visit to Kabul, the Mestiri mission achieved little.

The Jordanian council proposed that a 30-member committee of Islamic scholars and intellectuals be formed by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) from its member countries to help form a transitory government of "non-political" Afghans to run the country for a period of 10 months.

During this period, the proposed OIC committee will work with the interim government to prepare parliamentary elections. The elected parliament will determine the shape of the government based on the number of seats gained by various parties, based on one seat for every 10,000 voters. The elections will be governed by a law to be drafted by the interim government in consultations with the OIC committee and based on distinct party platforms and programmes, according to the proposal.

There was no immediate response to the proposal from the Afghan groups, which continued their bitter battle, claiming more lives and wounding hundreds in the battered Afghan capital.

Most leaders of the Afghan rebel groups are known to be hostile towards Jordan because of the Kingdom's firm position during the 1980-90 resistance battle against the Soviet occupation that national reconciliation was the best solution for the Afghan conflict.

During the conflict itself, Jordan, upon the request of the former Soviet Union, played a major role in arranging peace talks between the government and the rebels as well as meetings between Soviet representatives and Afghan factional leaders.

Jordanian mediation was seen as instrumental in convincing the late Pakistani president, Mohammad Zia Ul-Haq, an ardent supporter of the rebel groups, to see the wisdom in seeking a negotiated end to the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan during talks with Moscow's representatives in Geneva in the late 80s.

Brother stabs sister for alleged adultery

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A 20-year-old Zargha woman Thursday was stabbed by her brother and was listed in critical condition, a Civil Defence Department (CDD) report said.

The woman, identified as Khawla A. K., had a deep wound in the neck and another in the chest inflicted by her brother who surrendered to police immediately after the incident, a CDD official told the Jordan Times.

The official said the victim, the mother of a two-year-old child, was married and divorced twice.

The reason for her second divorce, the official maintained, was alleged adultery.

In his testimony to police and CDD officials, the brother, who was not identified, said his family asked him to kill his sister to "cleanse the family honour." He told police he took a knife, went to his house where his sister was staying and stabbed her.

Zargha Military Hospital declined to release details of the woman's condition, but the CDD official told the Jordan

Times that the woman is expected to survive. Zargha police declined comment on the crime.

Man seriously hurt in lift fall

A 20-year-old man, was seriously injured Thursday when the elevator he was riding free-wheeled for three stories, a police report said.

Akram M. was in the elevator of one of the factories — whose name was withheld by police — he works in when the accident occurred.

The man was rushed to Al Quds Hospital for treatment. Hospital sources told the Jordan Times that the victim suffered brain contusions, skull fractures and shoulder dislocation.

"There is a 20 per cent chance that the man would survive because his body is not accepting any medicine," the attending nurse said.

He added that the man is in a coma, and it might be months before he wakes up.

Police reports indicate that the family are filing a law suit against the factory owner.

Report studies condition of women in occupied territories 'Status of Palestinian women hinges on structure of future state'

By Natasha Bukhari
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "Would the coming authority with its present symbols secure women their rights of equality and freedom?" was the question a member of the Palestinian Women Society (PWS) asked in a telephone interview with the Jordan Times.

Samsan Ra'fat's question is typical of many women concerned about their status in the future Palestinian autonomous entity. Mrs. Ra'fat is a member of the PWS committee that drafted a report on the condition of the Palestinian women, to be presented at the Beijing International Conference for Women in 1995.

The report projects a grim picture. It includes studies on discrimination against women regarding authority positions, education opportunities and health services as well as many other economic, political and social issues.

The committee that issued the study, says the report, faced many problems due to the difficulties in acquiring statistical information in the absence of a national authority in the occupied territories.

Palestinian women under the occupation assumed leading positions in the resistance, but this active political role did not translate itself in other areas like financial, professional, educational and social status or relationships between women's organisations that would deal with women's needs, said the report.

Working women do not assume leading positions in institutions and they were not part of decision making in any economic or political organisation regardless of their qualifications, says the report. It added that this was largely caused by the women's organisations' primary political orientation.

"The political predominance over women's activities is a 'two-edged sword' that included women in national concerns, but distracted them from identifying with the social discrimination against them," concluded the report.

Suppositions concerning

the future of women under Palestinian rule vary in the report from sceptical to hopeful and optimistic.

Mrs. Ra'fat expressed her "fears" of the effect of the "friendly" communication bridges between the PLO mainstream faction Fatah and the Islamist fundamentalist Hamas. She told the Jordan Times that women will be the losing sector if any joint leadership of the two factions were established.

She added that women unions in the occupied territories are falling behind in securing women's rights and that pressure groups should now prepare themselves for a social struggle to lobby for fundamental changes concerning women's status in the area.

"During the uprising, women were active in opposing the Israeli occupation, but this active participation was short lived. After a while, women were dragged back into their homes to be forced into marriage or attend to their family members' needs," she added.

This social discrimination manifested itself in several areas: Palestinian women, for example, were denied equal opportunities to education and work.

The report speculated that the number of educated men was much larger than that of women, and that working women were much fewer than working men.

Moreover, the West Bank and Gaza witnessed limited advancement in women's social status due to the structural change the Palestinian community underwent after the occupation. These changes took place mainly in the cities and were not significant enough to effect the "embedded backward social traditions," charged the report.

The number of universities increased and avenues for education expanded, but the society still dictated the "proper" field of academic specialisation for women, which explains why most college graduates are women, while university graduates are predominantly men, says the report.

Poverty is another problem

that prevents women from improving their status in the occupied territories. According to the report, women suffer the most from poor living conditions, which is a deliberate policy adopted by the Israelis to distract Palestinians from engaging in political activities. This strategy, however, failed to keep men away from political resistance to occupation, which, in many cases, left women responsible for making a living to feed and educate family members. Despite this burden women carried, they were still underpaid for the labour they did and not recognised as family supporters because of the nature of their work which was mainly restricted to embroidery, housework and other, domestic chores.

Observers maintain that women's status in the coming stages are dependent on the nature of the structure of the Palestinian state. There are many doubts concerning the nature of the political orientation of the long awaited state and the role of women in it.

A PLO member who refused to be identified told the Jordan Times that it would not be easy to disregard women's role in the Palestinian-Israeli struggle and that their participation as a constructive force to build the country's economic forces is much needed, which, in turn, gives women the chance to force society to acknowledge them as responsible and constructive citizens with rights that cannot be dismissed.

"It all boils down to the structure of the Palestinian state; on the one hand, it might be progressive and democratic and on the other, it could be a traditional, conservative state like all other Arab countries," said the Palestinian official.

He added that women's assumption of a better status in society is contingent on the progress of all democratic and progressive forces in the Arab World, and their ability to achieve leading positions to enable them to "steer society in the right direction."

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Pakistani official arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — Pakistani Minister of Industry and Industrial Production Mohammad Asghar arrives here today on a four-day visit to Jordan for talks with senior Jordanian officials on economic and commercial cooperation. Mr. Asghar will hold talks with senior officials at the Jordan Phosphates Mines Company on scopes of cooperation in the area of exporting phosphates to Pakistani markets.

Race to mark Crown Prince Hassan award

AMMAN (Petra) — Crown Prince Hassan's Award Office will April 29 organise a 10-kilometre race to mark the 10th anniversary of the award, according to director of the office Samar Kildani. At a press conference held Friday, Ms. Kildani said the race will start at 9,000 a.m. from the Marriott Hotel and end at the hotel after passing through the 3rd, 4th and 5th circles, in addition to Al Hussein Sport City circle. A total of 1,000 youths will be taking part in the race, she said.

New commemoration stamp to be issued

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet has decided to issue special stamps marking the third Hashemite reconstruction of Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock in occupied Jerusalem. The stamp will be issued Monday to coincide with a special celebration held to mark the completion of the reconstruction work, which was carried out at the expense of His Majesty King Hussein. The new stamp will be of three denominations.

WHAT'S GOING ON

LECTURES

- ★ Lecture with slides entitled "Brancusi At the Source of Modern Sculpture" by art critic Nelly Lama at Darat Al Fann of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweideh at 5:00 p.m.
- ★ Lecture entitled "Arab Economy and the Challenges of Peace" by former Egyptian Minister of Economy Dr. Mustafa Al Sa'idi at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 6:00 p.m.

CONCERT

- ★ Concert by the Jordan Music Academy at the main theatre of the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by artist Latifa Yousef at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition by artists Alia Ammoura, Dorothy Mango, Hind Naser, Janine Saaf, Lucy Marto, Tete Wegelius at Ab'ad Art Gallery (10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.) (Tel. 819861).
- ★ Exhibition of calligraphy at Orfali Art Gallery, (Tel. 826932).
- ★ Electronics and electric exhibition at the World Centre for Exhibitions, University Road (10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.) (Tel. 602609).
- ★ Paintings exhibition by Jordanian and Lebanese artists Jamal Khamis and Jehad Abu Suleiman at Alia Art Gallery (9:30 - 12:30, 15:00-18:00) (Tel. 639303).
- ★ Graphics exhibition by artist Burhan Saleh Mohammad at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture (Tel. 695291).
- ★ Book exhibition at the International Exhibition Centre, University Road.
- ★ Engraving exhibition by artist Jean-Pierre Placemin at the French Cultural Centre.

Antiquities Department retrieves more illegally excavated artefacts

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Close cooperation between the Department of Antiquities and the Public Security Department (PSD) has led to the retrieval of yet another batch of artefacts illegally excavated in southern Jordan.

Director Safwan Al Tell told the Jordan Times that teams from the Department of Antiquities in the Karak region have alerted the local police about illegal excavations going on in Bab Thura and Ghor Safi as well as in Wadi Araba.

Investigations led to the arrest of three suspects whose homes were searched and from whom artefacts were retrieved by the department, said Dr. Tell.

The three suspects were found to be in possession of 897 pieces of pottery, coins and ostrich eggs, as well as bone artefacts dating back to the Bronze Age, some 3000 years

B.C., he added.

This is the second time in less than a month that people suspected of having conducted illegal excavations have been detained by the authorities in the southern regions which abound with archaeological sites, said Dr. Tell.

"We believe that the suspects have contacts in Amman who finance their operations and try to do illicit trade with the country's archaeological wealth," said Dr. Tell.

He added that through illegal excavations, these people are trying to make personal profit but they are impeding organised and legal digs by the Department of Antiquities.

Brigadier Fayez Qablan, Karak police department director, was quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as saying that a special police squad had been closely cooperating with the Department of Antiquities and conducting surveillance of the movements

of the suspects before they made the move to capture them.

Dr. Tell said that the department has limited powers and can by no means provide full protection to more than 100,000 archaeological sites found in various parts of the country.

He said that according to Jordanian laws, no one except the Department of Antiquities has the right to excavate for artefacts, gold or any other treasures. Also according to the law, nothing found by accident should be concealed from the department or destroyed, he added.

He urged the government to help spread awareness among the public, especially students, as to the importance of the artefacts which, he said, stands out as witness to the various cultures that flourished in this part of the world throughout history.

Workshop on proper use of irrigation water and chemicals to be held

AMMAN — With the international and local awakening on the environmental problems concerning water and agriculture, the Regional Centre on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development for the Near East (CARDNE) in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) — Regional Office for the Near East — is holding a workshop to tackle the issues of the already scarce and polluted irrigation water and the abusive use of the agro-chemicals and pesticides in producing more crops.

The workshop will take place in Amman from April 25 to April 28, 1994. Participants from Cyprus, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey are expected to attend the workshop in addition to representatives from the FAO headquarters and Near East Regional Office, the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development and the centre.

Experts and decision makers from the water, agriculture and extension fields will present papers on the over-pumping of the underground water, over-use of water in irrigation practices, soil and water salinity, soil degradation, desertification, soil and water pollution as a result of improper use of agricultural chemicals, man and animal poisoning, lack of proper farm management and lack of national agricultural policies.

A field trip to witness the existing problems will be arranged for the participants to get firsthand information and observe the cases presented to them. On the last day of the workshop a panel discussion will take place, and recommendations will follow.

AT THE
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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL - 1
2nd ANNUAL FESTIVAL
FOR
"ART... MUSIC & HUMAN RIGHT"
PRESENTS
MIRAGE MUSICAL TEAM
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TICKETS SOLD AT DOOR
J.D. 5 FAMILY
J.D. 4 FAMILY
J.D. 3 BOYS & GIRLS
AT 8 P.M.

Jordan Times

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Self-reliance for south

IT WAS a case of self-reliance at its best when three major Jordanian companies operating in southern Jordan took up the challenge posed by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to turn their "charity programmes" in southern regions of the country into economically productive projects. The Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC), the Arab Potash Company (APC) and the Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC) are now spearheading the creation of a JD 1 million "development fund" to finance a new venture, known as the South Development Company (SDC), for the purpose of alleviating economic suffering in the south of the country. Crown Prince Hassan's initiative, and the positive response by JPMC, APC and JCFC to it, are indeed effective and timely in view of the continuing economic recession in the southern region and the relatively high unemployment rate in that part of the country.

Today marks the first day when the board of directors of SDC will meet to give shape to some of the preliminary projects that are expected to be launched immediately. Where we may disagree with the organisers though is over the mistaken belief that the projects for the south need to be profit oriented. Given the experience of some of the other projects of self-reliance elsewhere in the country and their success in market products, there is no reason not to expect a similar performance by the job-creating projects in the south.

Still the first order of business should be to solve, in part at least, the water problem in the south. There can be no way to develop the area without first addressing the shortage of water there. Much talk had been devoted to constructing dams and reservoirs. Even more talk was devoted to deploying wind and solar energy. But, unless and until the dual problem of water and energy are addressed all good-intentioned plans to reconstruct the south would remain pious thinking. The building of the infrastructure of the south calls for new major efforts by the country as a whole. Hopefully the ongoing plans to help the south help itself could in due course turn most attention to these infra-structure considerations. Then and only then, could the south stand on its own two feet.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST IN Al Ra'i commented on the Wednesday suicide bomb attack in which six Israelis were killed at a bus terminal in northern Israel by saying that it came as a natural reaction to the continued atrocities committed by the Israeli troops and settlers against the Palestinian civilian population. The Israelis must realise that neither the occupation of Arab land nor the complete sealing of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip can ensure security for the Israelis, said Tareq Masarweh. The land where the atrocities are being committed against the Palestinians is Palestinian and not Israeli land, and the holy places desecrated by the Israelis are those that belong to the Arabs and Muslims, said the writer. The Israeli soldiers and the Jewish settlers can by no means remain free to kill Arabs at will, demolish their homes and evict families from their homes without having to account for their action, said the writer. He said that continued violence can only breed violence and counter attacks and retaliations that are bound to cause more sufferings for both sides.

A COLUMNIST IN Al Ra'i daily criticised the Water Authority for not fairly distributing water to the inhabitants of various districts of Amman. Nazih said that while certain parts of the capital are supplied by more than they need of water supplies, other areas, like the district of Hay Nazzal, suffer for many days at a stretch without a drop of water. It is true that sometimes water is stopped because of maintenance work on the networks but since the water supplies continually and for many days fail to reach whole districts, something terribly wrong must exist with the water distribution system, said the writer.

JORDANIAN PERSPECTIVE

Campaign must be launched to assert Arab rights in Jerusalem

By Dr. Musa Kellani

THIS WEEK is of special significance to all those who love Jerusalem and care for the historic and religious ties that Arabs and Muslims have with the holy city. Monday marks the formal completion of restoration work at the Dome of the Rock Mosque in Jerusalem financed by His Majesty King Hussein. Arab and Muslim representatives are converging on Amman to mark the occasion, which could also witness the beginning of a serious, concerted Arab and Muslim action along with Christians towards ensuring that the rights of Islam and Christianity to Jerusalem are preserved and placed above all Israeli efforts to eclipse them.

It is an occasion to remember that Israel's military control of the city since 1967 has been accompanied with an all-out drive by the Zionists to gain international sympathy and support for their claim to Jerusalem as the "eternal and indivisible capital" of Israel. The drive sought to distort history and emphasise that it was only a matter of logic that the "Biblical rights" of the Jews allow them to "reclaim" Jerusalem as their property and that was the end of the affair.

We in Jordan have always been aware of the Israeli campaign and we have always sought to mobilise broad Arab and Muslim efforts to undermine the Zionist drive and reassert the rights of Muslims and Christians to the holy city. Very unfortunately, support for the Jordanian effort has somehow been politically clouded, particularly in terms of Arab backing.

Jordan's ties with Jerusalem precede the union of the two banks of the River Jordan in the 1950s. Modern history shows that the Hashemite family maintained those ties throughout the life of Sherif Hussein Ibn Ali, who, as far back as 1920, took a personal interest in Jerusalem and the Islamic shrines there. It is no coincidence that Sherif Hussein was laid to rest in the holy city. That relationship was maintained by the late King Abdullah who was approached by the then Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, Amin Hussein, in 1938 to reaffirm the Hashemite role as the guardian of the Islamic holy shrines in Jerusalem.

Jerusalem.

The completion of the restoration work at the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem comes amidst ambiguities surrounding the future of the holy city.

On the one hand, Israeli leaders proclaim loudly that there cannot be any compromise over the Jewish state's claim that the holy city is its capital. On the other hand, the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreement of Sept. 13, 1993, or the declaration of principles as it is formally known, clearly stipulates that the future of Jerusalem would be open for discussion in the final status negotiations beginning in the third year of autonomy. Hopefully, Israel will live up to its commitment in the agreement.

But that does not address the Hashemite links to Jerusalem. Conveniently forgotten by others in the context of Jerusalem is the fact that when King Hussein severed legal and administrative links with the West Bank, which includes Jerusalem, in July 1988, he did not renounce his role as the guardian of the Islamic holy shrines in Jerusalem. Despite a severe financial crunch, Jordan continues to pay for the upkeep of the holy shrines through the Awqaf in Jerusalem.

King Hussein's decision two years ago to sell property and raise more than \$8 million to make up for a shortfall in the estimate for restoration work of the holy shrines in Jerusalem came as a reaffirmation of the Hashemite commitment as guardian of the holy sites in the city.

Beyond this historical role, it is also clear that King Hussein has personal attachments to Jerusalem as his comments throughout the years have indicated. That attachment goes beyond the concept of political or religious sovereignty and is directly linked to the sentiments of a faithful Muslim, for whom Jerusalem represents everything the faith stands for.

The King's vow not to recognise any sovereignty over Jerusalem except that of almighty God's and his call for an inter-faith dialogue to determine the future of the holy city in a way that would ensure that the Muslim and Christian rights

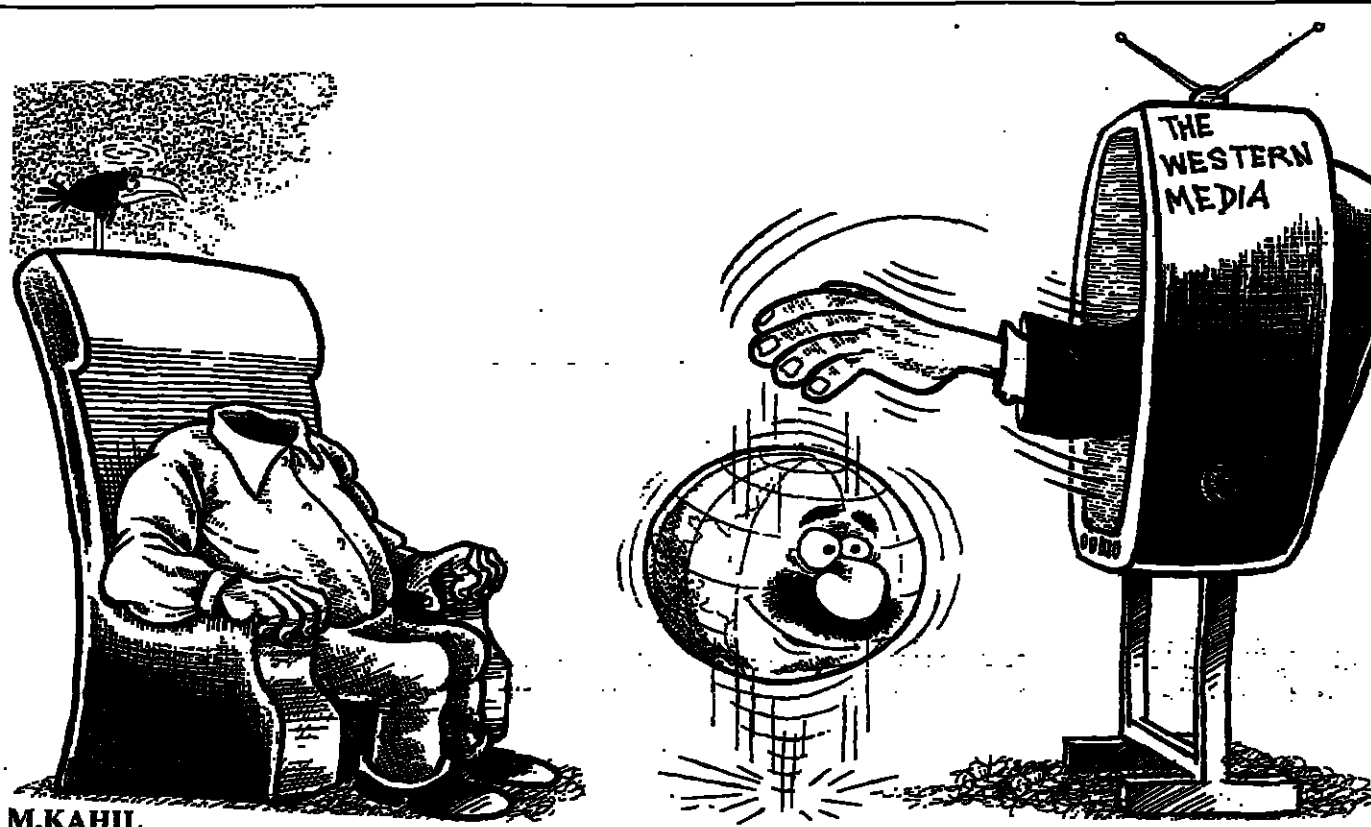
there are ensured, protected, defended and maintained have to be seen in the context of a pragmatic understanding and compassion for the religious faith of others. Nothing more or nothing less can or should be read into it. The King's position symbolises his awareness of the fact that Jerusalem could constitute a major stumbling block in the way of a comprehensive peace regardless of any agreement reached between Israel and the Arabs to settle their fundamental conflict as long as the Jewish state is not willing to listen to reason and learn to respect the religious rights and deep-rooted convictions of others in Jerusalem.

Living up to the leadership behaviour of a family that ruled Mecca, King Hussein has wasted no effort to state his position clearly. He has already covered enough ground in this context for Muslims and Christians to launch joint action to protect their rights in Jerusalem.

The next crucial step is the formulation of a clearly defined path for the Muslims and Christian to go forward with clear understandings of each other's rights and demands in Jerusalem. This path should lead towards a broader dialogue among the three monotheistic religions of the world — Islam, Christianity and Judaism.

No one should be discouraged by the extremist voices coming out from the hardline religious establishment in Israel. For one, any voice that rejects the religious rights and ridicules the convictions of other faiths is in total contradiction of the principles of tolerance and respect that are in-built in all religions. Judaism included. Those extremist rabbis who line up against accepting and recognising any Muslim and Christian right anywhere in the world are only cheating themselves and violating their own faith.

For us in Jordan, the path is clear: Collective action based on solid understanding and tolerance of all religions and rights towards mobilising international public opinion, if necessary, and establishing a mechanism that would irreversibly imbibe the Muslim and Christian rights in Jerusalem.



M.KAHIL

THE WEEK IN PRINT

Palestinian resistance will not end until Israel withdraws from Arab lands

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

THE LOCAL press in the past week gave prominence to the recent bomb blasts in Israel, the stalled peace process, the siege on Aqaba and a host of domestic issues.

Hamadeh Faraaneh, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that the car bomb attacks on Israeli positions constitute part of the war of independence waged by the Palestinian resistance forces. The Palestinians do not condone the killing of civilians but the fact is that the resistance had to carry out the attacks in retaliation for the killing of Palestinian civilians since the start of the Israeli occupation. The killing, said the writer, is done in the course of the long struggle for liberation and would not stop until Palestinians acquire independence and freedom.

Ahmad Al Mislah, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, said that the bomb blast at the bus terminal, like all other resistance activities, is a natural reaction for the long years of repression. The writer said that despite the closure of the occupied Arab lands following the Afula blast, the resistance reached the heart of Israel and carried out the new attack, which means that there can be no safety for the Israelis as long as they continue to occupy Arab territories.

The bomb blasts in Israel this month were not only a reply to the hebron massacre but also as a natural reaction to the continued repression, which started with the occupation and has continued unabated, said Al Ra'i daily. The paper said the Arabs in general and the Palestinians in particular have been disappointed over Israel's continued delay in implementing agreements and U.N. resolutions and are determined to launch any move to ensure that their rights are restored.

Sawt Al Shaab daily said Israel's defiance of the

Palestinians and its determination to disregard U.N. resolutions prompted the resistance to launch bomb attacks on Israeli targets. It is Israel's acts of violence that bred counter violence and Israel's atrocities against the Palestinians that forced the Palestinians to deal with their enemies in kind, said the daily. Peace, said the paper, can only be reached once the Arab territories have been liberated.

Mohammad Kawash, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that while Israel is commemorating the death of the Jews killed by the Nazis its forces were busy killing innocent Palestinians. And while Israel's ally, the United States, is condemning the Palestinian resistance activities it condones the Jewish state's atrocities against the Arab citizens, he said. The writer said that the United States and Israel should realise that there can be no end to bloodshed on either side until occupation ends and that Israel is bound to pay dearly as long as it continues to occupy Arab lands.

Commenting on Israeli obstacles to peace, Taher Al Adwan said that the Israelis have allowed April 13 to pass by without honouring their pledge to withdraw their forces from areas in the Arab lands according to the agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). The columnist, who writes for Al Dustour, said that to add insult to injury, the Israelis have closed the occupied territories to force mass punishment on the Palestinians for their resistance activities.

The delay in reaching a final settlement, said the writer, is bound to cause more sufferings for both sides.

Echoing the same views, Ibrahim Zarour, a columnist in Al Ra'i, said that punish-

ment imposed by Israel on tens of thousands of Palestinian families who are being starved and deprived of basic rights can solve nothing for the Israeli government and people. The writer said at least 120,000 Palestinian workers are now deprived of work since they can no more work in Israel and most of them are bound to escalate their attacks against the occupation forces. The writer said that the Palestinian negotiators should give this matter priority in their continued meetings with the Israeli side, which, the writer said, should be held responsible for the lives of all the Arabs under its rule.

In the view of Salameh Ekour, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab, the PLO should by no means apologise directly or indirectly to Israel for the resistance activities but should demand that Israel pull out its forces from the occupied territories.

The writer said that the Palestinian leadership should realise that the bomb blasts do not impede the peace process but they would rather speed it up because they serve as a pressure on the Israeli government and is a source of power for the Palestinian negotiators.

Referring to the continued blockade on Aqaba, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab, said that the enforcers of the sanctions on Iraq are exercising unjustified pressure on Jordan to force it to succumb to Israel's wishes. Ali Khalaf said that it is regrettable to say that the Western nations, which impose the blockade, realise Jordan's desperate needs and the country's endeavour to rebuild its economy but still they pursue this piracy against the country. Jordan, said the writer, has all the right to reject such treatment at a time when the Western powers are allowing

Turkish and Iranian ports to conduct free trade without any restrictions.

Sawt Al Shaab daily said that the siege on Aqaba is clearly intended to force Jordan to sign a separate peace treaty with Israel and to normalise Jordanian-Israeli relations. The paper said that by rejecting this idea, Jordan has thus frozen its participation in the peace process and will continue to challenge any moves to and any infringements on its sovereignty. The paper said that Jordan can by no means succumb to pressure and would never accept any compromise over its sovereignty.

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab voiced support for the Health Ministry's proposal to enforce a law requiring couples to undergo laboratory tests before marriage. Ahmad Dabbas said that the Health Ministry aims to minimise the chance of having handicapped children who, he said, will be a liability to society.

A columnist in Al Dustour urged the concerned authorities to put an end to immoral behaviours on the part of groups of Jordanians who have been acting in a manner that would only distort the image of this country and create seeds of hatred between the Iraqi and Jordanian peoples. Dr. Mousa Kilani, editor-in-chief of the daily said that a group of Jordanians, who went to Iraq lately, have been acting shamefully by committing immoral actions in Baghdad and smuggling Iraqi carpets, ornaments and other valuables. He said this group is exploiting the sufferings of the Iraqi people and is benefitting from the difference in the rate of exchange in the price of the Iraqi dinar and marketing the smuggled items for 50 times their price in Jordan.

Water shortage may trigger next Mideast war

By Youssef Azmeah
Reuters

MUSCAT — Israel's success in gaining its first ever entry to the Arab Gulf has overshadowed regional talks on a subject that experts say could trigger the next Middle East war: conflict over scarce and diminishing water resources.

Multilateral talks on water launched at the 1991 Middle East peace conference in Madrid reopen in Oman on Sunday after a break of almost six months reflecting lack of progress in direct peace negotiations between Israel and its immediate Arab neighbours.

But experts and diplomats say rows over water are almost as serious as disputes over territory in an arid region from Morocco to Iran where renewable water resources are already well below World Bank (WB) criteria of per capita needs.

Syria and Iraq are livid over Turkish projects that would reduce the flow of the Tigris and the Euphrates, the rivers that made Mesopotamia the cradle of civilisation in the Near East.

Ankara suspects Syria of backing Kurdish rebels in southeast Turkey because of its anger over the water dispute.

Israel argues that Arab neighbours should abandon their suspicions and make use of its advanced technology and friendly Western capital to harness this precious resource.

But Middle East peace negotiations are getting nowhere in trying to end the Israeli occupation of Arab lands captured in the 1967 war.

Experts and diplomats say that even if peace comes to the Middle East, mutual suspicions are so deeply rooted after more than 40 years of war that agreement on water was remote.

"It is among the region's most intractable problems. I see the seeds of the next Middle East war here," said one expert.

Behind those concerns are stark facts.

World Bank figures show that while an average person needs 1,700 cubic metres of water per year, the volume available in the Middle East and North Africa shrank from 3,430 in 1960 to 1,436 in 1990 and is expected to fall to 667 in the year 2025.

That is a dire prospect in places like Jordan, which would then have only 91 cubic metres per capita, Syria 161 per capita and Israel 311.

"World Bank figures show that while an average person needs 1,700 cubic metres of water per year, the volume available in the Middle East and North Africa shrank from 3,430 in 1960 to 1,436 in 1990 and is expected to fall to 667 in the year 2025."

Egypt eyes with deep suspicion any tinkering with the waters of the Nile by Sudan or African nations as far away as Ethiopia and Uganda that control the river's headwaters. Cairo's problems with Khartoum are often attributed to Nile problems.

Lebanon, Syria and Jordan have long suspected that Israel has designs on sources of water in their territories to quench the thirst of an expanding population and maintain its thriving agribusiness.

Syria and Lebanon say Israel is holding on to occupied South Lebanon and the Golan Heights because of water.

Palestinians accuse Israel of stealing their water, leaving their parched lands with only 30 per cent of the resources they had before Israel captured the West Bank in 1967.

Reports that Egypt was discussing a scheme to pump Nile water to Israel raised an outcry this year among Egyptians, who consider the Nile their lifeblood. Cairo promptly denied the story.

Renewable resources even in countries that are water-rich now will fail to meet needs in 30 years' time, with Lebanon at 809 cubic metres and Egypt at 645 in the year 2025.

The Gulf states and Libya rely heavily on desalinating sea water which is a very expensive way of meeting their water needs. This is a growing problem for smaller oil producers like Yemen, Oman and Bahrain that do not have much more oil to sell and are already heavily water deficient, experts say.

Increasing water scarcity is frequently combined with deteriorating water quality, mainly due to rising urbanisation, insufficient sewage treatment, falling water tables and contamination of fresh water supplies.

The World Bank, which has spent about 4 billion on water projects in the region in the past 30 years, says those problems have "overwhelmed" traditional water management methods and is strongly backing the multi-lateral negotiations.

"It is getting very acute," one expert said.

Officials reject Israeli criticism

(Continued from page 1)

Israelis in Afula and Hadera "is not himself responsible for the attacks and was only addressing journalists as a politician, which is not against the law."

There was no official response from the Cabinet whose spokesman said it was still deliberating the accusation and preparing a response.

But some officials privately expressed concern that such statements as those made by Mr. Nazzari in Amman were not compatible with the Kingdom's policy on the Middle East peace process and could put the country into a difficult position at a time when it is calling for linking the lifting of the siege on Aqaba with its role in the process.

They said that the Hamas statements from Amman played into the hands of the Americans and Israel who wanted to pressure the Kingdom further after His Majesty King Hussein tied the Kingdom's role in the peace process with lifting the siege against Aqaba.

"It is clear," a prominent Jordanian politician told the Jordan Times, "that the U.S. and Israel want to tie the Hamas statements with Jordan's conditions on the peace process and the Aqaba blockade."

"They were unhappy with the King's conditions regarding Aqaba and this is how they found a counter issue to pressure the Kingdom," the politician said.

A senior official, who agreed

with the politician, also said that Jordan also sees the anger expressed by the Israeli prime minister as another indication of attempts to undermine Jordan's role in the peace process.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who joined Mr. Rabin in his press conference Thursday, said he was especially angry that Mr. Nazzari had said that the two attacks were among five that Hamas would carry out to avenge the Hebron Mosque massacre of dozens of Palestinian worshippers.

"I don't know one incident in foreign affairs in which a state which says it is aspiring to peace would allow in light of day the head or representative of a murderous organisation to say: 'we committed two incidents of murder and we intend to carry out three more incidents like this, in the light of day,' on the television screen," Mr. Peres said.

Jordanian officials also believe that this is another link in the general antagonism many countries in the Arab region and the U.S. feel towards Jordan's democracy and inability of many of these countries to believe that Jordan cannot impose limits on the political statements of politicians like Mr. Nazzari, or force newspapers to take one side over the other.

"Since the Gulf war, the U.S. and Gulf states did not believe us when we said we could not control the media hailing Saddam Hussein or criticising Gulf states," a well-placed official said.

"Now when we tell them

that we legally cannot take any action against Hamas issuing statements from here, they are also not going to believe us," the official added.

"Hamas represents an extremist point of view which echoes statements made by the extremists on the Israeli side calling for the extermination of all Palestinians," one official said adding, "I do not see how Israel in a democratic context can expect us to muzzle the extremist voices on our side while letting free the extremist voices on their side."

Hamas representatives were not available for comment over this controversy, but one of them would only say that his group did not want to "make Jordan's position any more difficult than it already is."

However, prominent Islamist and Islamic Action Front (IAF) Deputy Hammam Saeed said that Hamas in Jordan had better leave claims of responsibility to come from inside the occupied territories.

"All Hamas activities originate from inside the occupied territories and there is nothing coming from outside except political and media statements... decisions for Hamas are not taken from outside of the occupied territories in terms of military action," he said.

Mr. Saeed, implicitly criticising Mr. Nazzari, said that "the approach should be of a different kind. People inside the occupied territories should be left to express themselves by themselves as they offer sacrifices and take their own decisions."

Most foreigners out of chaotic Rwanda

(Continued from page 1)

few could have survived this massacre. There were 1,180 bodies in my church, including 650 children."

Mr. Gueye said the massacre was reported to the United Nations, but that U.N. observers had not been able to confirm it.

Tutsi rebels warned the 2,300 U.N. peacekeepers to complete the evacuation of foreigners from Rwanda Friday. They said foreign troops who remained at the end of the day would be considered "hostile."

Belgian military spokesman Gilbert Hertoghe said in Brussels it would take most of Friday to complete the evacuation of foreign civilians. Belgian officials said only a handful of foreigners were waiting to leave. It was not clear how many decided to stay.

Foreigners braved a rocket attack on Kigali's airport Thursday as they fled the fighting between troops of the

Hutu-dominated government and the mainly Tutsi fighters of the rebel RPF. Fewer than 50 foreigners, including 15 Western journalists, a group of Ugandan orphans and two Spanish nuns, were evacuated Thursday.

The U.N. Security Council, which decided earlier not to withdraw the mostly unarmed peacekeepers, planned to discuss the situation in Rwanda later Friday.

At least a third of Kigali's 300,000 residents are thought to have fled on foot.

More than 20,000 people are estimated to have died in a week of fighting rooted in the decades-old feud between Hutus and Tutsis. Many have been hacked to death by marauding gangs carrying machetes, knives and spears.

The International Red Cross suspended its ambulance runs after six wounded people were dragged from a Red Cross truck and shot Thursday. Red Cross workers have been caught in the mayhem them-

selves, with at least 30 of them reported slain in Rwanda in the past week.

"Everyone is fighting here," said Philippe Gaillard, the chief Red Cross official in Rwanda. "The people are fighting against their own brothers."

The U.N. Children's Fund said in Geneva that at least seven of its Rwandan employees were confirmed dead and that it feared other staff members and their families also had been slain. The agency said it evacuated its 11 foreign staffers and their dependents but lost track of many of its 44 local workers.

U.N. peacekeepers were sent to monitor a fragile peace accord signed in August by the government and the rebels after almost three years of civil war. The ceasefire collapsed after Rwanda's Hutu president died in a plane crash April 7.

Belgium said it would withdraw its 420 peacekeepers within days.

Yemenis in contact on crisis

(Continued from page 1)

economic, military and administrative reforms. But hours later, clashes broke out between rival army units for about a week and until a special military committee disengaged the forces.

Jordan to send envoy

King Hussein, keen to preserve Yemen's threatened unity, will send a senior envoy to the crisis-torn country on Saturday, a Jordanian official said. Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker "will assess the situation in Yemen in the aftermath of the Yemeni reconciliation accord that was signed in Amman on Feb. 20," he told Reuters.

Arab diplomats said Jordan, a member of a committee formed to disengage rival army units in line with the Amman pact, would decide whether to continue its involvement in Yemen after Sharif Zeid re-

turned.

Oman, Jordan's main Arab partner on dealing with the Yemen crisis, said 10 days ago it was ending its efforts after Sultan Qaboos Ben Said hosted the meeting between President Saleh and Vice President.

Sharif Zeid's trip, his fourth since December, comes after the King met Saleh Mohammad, assistant secretary-general of Mr. Beidh's Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) in Amman on Tuesday. He is on a tour to brief Arab leaders on developments in Yemen.

Jordanian, Omani and Yemeni officials along with U.S. and French military attaches in Yemen are members of the committee that succeeded this week in holding the first meeting in months between Defence Minister Haitham Qassem Taber, a southerner, and the northern chief of staff, Brigadier Abdul Malek Al Sayant.

Jordan sends observer to Oman

(Continued from page 1)

gion towards catastrophe. The King stressed the importance of serious negotiations on all issues if a genuine progress is to be achieved on all tracks.

On the Jordanian-Israeli track, King Hussein said there was a movement but it fell short of a real and serious progress.

The King called for a satisfactory solution to all pending issues, such as the delineation of borders and sharing of water.

On relations with Iraq, King Hussein said Jordan's efforts before and after the Gulf war had failed to prevent the war, to end the occupation of Kuwait peacefully and to find an Arab solution to the Iraq-Kuwait crisis.

The King said his attempts with both parties to the conflict have failed, and voiced his concern for the Iraqi people. On the Aqaba siege and Jordan's participation in the peace talks, King Hussein said

any future Jordanian movement was contingent on lifting the Aqaba siege.

The King said Jordan's participation in the peace process, including its attendance at the Madrid peace conference and providing an umbrella for the Palestinians to help them solve their problem, emanated from Jordan's conviction in peace and was not a response to any pressures.

The King said things had reached a point where the situation has become intolerable. The King stressed that Jordan will not surrender to any pressures.

King Hussein said there was no justification for maintaining the siege on Aqaba, following Jordan's full observance of the United Nations Security Council resolutions.

The King said Japan was an extremely important world power and voiced hope that it would be able to play the partner's role in shaping the future of the Middle East region and meeting the requirements of peace.

NATO jet hit

(Continued from page 1)

warned of more strikes if peacekeepers were endangered, but the United Nations clearly wanted to avoid them.

Meanwhile Russia, angry with the West over the NATO air strikes in Bosnia, will not sign a "Partnership for Peace" deal on closer military links with the alliance next week as planned, diplomats said on Friday in Brussels.

The diplomats told Reuters they had learned Moscow had definitely postponed signing the deal, seen by NATO as crucial to good relations with Russia. No new date had been set.

"It's not going to happen next week and we really don't know when the Russians will come," said one diplomat.

Earlier on Friday, NATO sources said it seemed unlikely that Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev would come to the alliance's headquarters on April 21 to sign the partnership as planned previously.

Moscow has said only that the visit was in doubt following the NATO air strikes in Bosnia last week.

Russian peace envoy Vitaly Churkin emerged optimistic on Friday from talks with Bosnian Serbs aimed at reviving peace negotiations and ending Serb retaliation against U.N. peacekeeping troops.

"There is a constructive attitude on both sides," Mr. Churkin told Reuters Television after meeting Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic in the Serb stronghold of Pale outside Sarajevo.

Serbs were still detaining U.N. peacekeepers, blocking U.N. traffic and surrounding two U.N. compounds outside Sarajevo.

Serb troops on Thursday detained 15 Canadian soldiers and two U.N. military observers monitoring Serb heavy weapons at Citluk near Sarajevo, U.N. officials said.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali said the United Nations would not give in to pressure from Bosnian Serbs.



NO LONGER THE NATIONAL SAVIOUR: Polish President Lech Walesa is by no means sure of victory in his bid

for reelection as support for Solidarity continues to fade (Sygma photo)

Walesa spars with ex-Communist in Polish presidential battle

By Adam Jasser

Reuter

WARSAW — Lech Walesa has made the first moves in the campaign for Poland's presidency, although elections for it are more than a year away.

Mr. Walesa has hinted strongly that he will run for a second five-year term and hardly anyone doubts his main rival will be Aleksander Kwasniewski, leader of the Democratic Left Alliance (SLD) of ex-Communists.

In February, Mr. Walesa abandoned the low profile he had been keeping since the SLD won elections last September, bitterly attacking the ex-Communists and Mr. Kwasniewski in a dispute over the constitution.

"They are starting to show their horns and I have to step in and cut them down to size," he said.

Neither Mr. Walesa nor Mr. Kwasniewski has formally started campaigning but few people doubt their intentions. Mr. Walesa's term expires in late 1995.

Last month, Mr. Walesa increased friction by blocking the nomination of the SLD's candidate for finance minister.

He said Geneva-based economist Dariusz Rosati, a

former Communist, had spent too long abroad and was involved in a fund under legal investigation.

The rejection was a big snub to Mr. Kwasniewski, who staked his prestige by openly backing Mr. Rosati. His party is assigned the post under a deal with its junior coalition partner, the Polish Peasants Party (PSL).

Mr. Kwasniewski accused Mr. Walesa of destabilising Poland and some SLD leaders suggested his presidential powers should be limited.

"There is an open war between Walesa and the SLD. And analysts believe it is an initial stage of a campaign in which Aleksander Kwasniewski will be the most dangerous rival of the current president," said the Rzeczpospolita newspaper.

The looming battle between Poland's old hero and the youthful leader of the reformed left is likely to be fierce.

In February, Mr. Walesa bitterly attacked the left-wing coalition after it rejected his proposals to give ordinary people more say in drawing up a new constitution.

Commentators were quick to point out that Mr. Walesa had singled out the SLD and Mr. Kwasniewski personally for attack, ignoring the role

of Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak's PSL, which also voted against his plan.

They put the apparent inconsistency down to the presidential contest.

Mr. Walesa clearly considers Mr. Kwasniewski to be a potentially stronger opponent than Mr. Pawlak, who seems undecided whether to contest the presidency at all.

Mr. Pawlak could be an ally for Mr. Walesa because he is involved in a day-to-day tug of war with Mr. Kwasniewski over control of the two-party coalition.

A senior coalition official told Reuters that Mr. Walesa's decision to reject Rosati was silently supported by Mr. Pawlak who didn't like him.

Mr. Pawlak was eventually forced to endorse Mr. Rosati, and has publicly continued to support him, but he did little to hide the fact that he felt he was pushed by the SLD into accepting the nomination.

"Pawlak had to pay lip service to Rosati because he does not want to break up his coalition. So he was more than happy that Walesa did the job (of blocking Rosati) for him," said the official.

Relations between Mr. Kwasniewski and Mr. Pawlak now look strained, which would work in Mr. Walesa's

favour. They first clashed when they were negotiating the cabinet line-up last November.

Mr. Kwasniewski emerged victorious, with most key posts given to the SLD. But only three months later, Marek Borowski, an SLD finance minister, left the cabinet in a row with Mr. Pawlak.

Mr. Borowski resigned after Mr. Pawlak fired a deputy finance minister, saying he had not been consulted. Mr. Kwasniewski asked Mr. Pawlak not to accept the resignation but his request was ignored.

Mr. Kwasniewski's image as the power behind the coalition dissipated because Mr. Pawlak had asserted his own authority and that of his party at Mr. Kwasniewski's cost.

The post of finance minister and deputy prime minister responsible for the economy have been vacant since, weakening the SLD's grip on policy-making.

Mr. Walesa is likely to try to dent Mr. Kwasniewski's image further and become the left wing's loudest critic, picking up a role he adopted in the 1980s as chairman of the Solidarity trade union.

At 50, Mr. Walesa regards himself as Poland's father fi-

gure but is by no means sure of victory in the battle for what is the last senior post held by a former Solidarity leader.

A recent opinion poll showed 17 per cent of people polled saw Mr. Kwasniewski as the best candidate, compared with nine per cent support for Mr. Walesa.

Mr. Kwasniewski, 39, is the charismatic, youthful leader of reformed Communists who say they have broken with the past and embraced market economics. He has shrugged off the stigma of being a member of the last Communist government.

Mr. Walesa is likely to play on Poland's still strong anti-Communist sentiment and try to rally all centrist and right-wing groups that emerged from the solidarity movement after him.

But the right wing has said it would reject Mr. Walesa's offer and put forward their own candidate.

And the most powerful of all the post-Solidarity groups, the Democratic Union and the Liberal Democratic Congress, have been cool to the idea of backing Mr. Walesa.

Winning their support may be crucial for Mr. Walesa as he seriously contemplates a second term.

Katyushas hit Israeli-held areas

(Continued from page 1)

South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia allies. He said Israel did not fire a single shot in the attack which Lebanese security sources said killed three civilians.

"Someone lost control for a moment and fired towards Sidon and that is obviously not acceptable to us," he told reporters. He said the SLA was under heavy pressure, having lost three men in an earlier attack on Thursday.

Israel and the SLA jointly patrol the Israeli-declared border "security zone" inside Lebanon.

Gen. Mordechai accused Hizbollah of violating understandings reached between Israel, Lebanon and Syria preventing Hizbollah rocket attacks on Israel's northern border settlements. He said it was an attempt to torpedo Arab-Israeli peace efforts.

"We are looking for ways to cope with these attempts to violate the understandings reached," the general said.

Israel said after previous guerrilla attacks that Syria bore overall responsibility, as the main foreign power broker in Lebanon. The last Katyusha attack on Israel was on March 22. No one was hurt.

Earlier Friday, security forces said at least three Katyushas landed around Israel's northernmost town of Metulla between midnight and dawn and another six struck in the general direction of Metulla in the "security zone."

The sources said three other unexploded Katyushas were later found on a road by a U.N. peacekeeping patrol in the south and were detonated by U.N. explosives experts.

The Israeli army said two barrages hit the Galilee panhandle, the northeastern

corner of the country, during the night and early morning Friday, but caused no injuries or damage. It did not give the exact locations of the hits, or say who fired them.

Hizbollah claimed responsibility for Thursday's roadside blast which occurred between Aramta in the Israeli-held enclave and Jezzeine, the largest Christian town on South Lebanon.

Among the dead was the SLA commander of that area, Major Assad Nasr, who originated from Jezzeine, which sits on the northern tip of an SLA-controlled corridor jutting from the Israeli-occupied strip, the sources said.

SLA howitzer batteries at Aramta struck back with sustained barrages on Sidon, provincial capital of South Lebanon, 40 kilometres south of Beirut.

Most of Sidon's 300,000 residents and its teeming Palestinian refugee camp of 'Ain Al Hilweh spent the night in basements or underground shelters although the shelling died down well before midnight.

Sidon, hometown of Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, and its suburban camp were shelled Friday in mourning for the shelling victims.

Two of the victims were buried at Sidon's main cemetery after noon prayers. Minister of State Fuad Siniora, representing Mr. Hariri, as well as Sidon Deputy Mustafa Saad and other parliamentaries spearheaded the funeral procession.

Speakers at the funeral, attended by an estimated 5,000 mourners, pledged to step up attacks against Israel.

"Resistance's role is essential and must carry on until our land is liberated," urged Mr. Saad.



Announcement

By
Jordan Export Development and Commercial Centers Corporation
(JEDCO)

To the Business Community,

As a Europartenariat (a European Business Partnership Organizing Scheme) National Counselor, we invite you to participate in the,

Europartenariat Polska 94

Which will take place in the city of Gdansk - Poland during the period 9-10 of June, 94. Over 400 Polish companies from the following sectors will participate in this event:

- 1- Construction : Materials, Products and Services .
- 2-Chemical, Pharmaceutical, Plastic, Glass and Ceramic Industries .
- 3-Electronic and Optical Industries .
- 4-Machinery, Electromachinery and precision Industries .
- 5-Metal Processing and Transport Industries .
- 6-Pulp & Paper, Printing and Furniture Industries .
- 7-Food and Food Processing Industries .
- 8-Textile and Cloth Industries .
- 9-Trading Services .
- 10-Technical Services .
- 11-Technical Services and Research and Development .
- 12-Other Industries and Services .

Participating Polish companies will be ready to go into partnership business deals and joint ventures with interested Jordanian businessmen. This will cover all areas of technical, commercial and service partnership .

For more information, please call our Marketing Department at 603705, or visit our offices located behind the Ministry of Industry and Trade .

Economy

Prices at AFM dip

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Trading and share prices at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) fell last week, as uncertainties over the Arab-Israeli peace process caused by the state of violence in the occupied territories and the missed deadline for an Israeli withdrawal with Gaza and Jericho took their toll on investor confidence, market figures showed.

The weekly report of the AFM showed that turnover for the week ending Thursday declined to JD 8.5 million from JD 9.9 million of the previous week. The 14.1 per cent drop represented a trend continuing for the third week running.

Turnover for the week ending March 24 was JD 18.2 million and for the last week of January was JD 21 million.

The general share price index based on 60 major companies listed at the AFM fell by 3.4 points to 158.4 points, an overall decline of 2.1 per cent. The index stood at 167.8 points on March 24.

The AFM report said 2.8 million shares changed hands during last week, covering 86 companies. Stocks of 12 firms showed gains, while 65 slipped and nine remained stable through the week.

Industrial stock accounted for JD 4 million, or 47.1 per cent of the turnover, followed by commercial banks with JD

3.6 million, or 42.3 per cent, the services sector with JD 800,000, or 9.4 per cent, and insurance stock with JD 100,000 or 1.2 per cent.

The separate indices related to the sectors also showed a decline in share prices: The index of industrial stock dipped by 4.2 points, reflecting a 2.9 per cent decline, insurance stock by 4.2 points, or 2.6 per cent, commercial bank stock by 2.9 points, or 1.7 per cent, and the services sector index by 1.7 points of 1.2 per cent.

While declines in trading and share prices were expected in April after dividends are distributed or announced, brokers said, the stagnation in the 29-month-old Arab-Israeli peace process was primarily behind the depression at the AFM in the last three weeks.

"Let us not forget that the boom in the market was a direct result of the peace process," said a broker, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with standing AFM regulations.

"Bombs going off here and there and the continued violence in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip are not exactly very comforting to investors," noted the broker, referring to the April 6 and April 13 bombings that killed several Israelis in Israeli towns and the tightened Israeli crackdown and siege of the two million Palestinians in the occupied territories.

"Many investors were poised for profit-taking when Israel would have shown the

first practical manifestation of a willingness to relinquish land," said the broker. "But, it had also become clear at the beginning of the week that the April 13 deadline would not have been honoured."

April 13 was the date of Israel to complete its withdrawal from the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho to make way for Palestinian self-rule under the accord signed in September. Differences between the PLO and Israel blocked the implementation of the accord.

Israeli and PLO officials now speak of a mid-May deadline.

Another factor contributing to the drop in AFM trading and share prices, considered by many as the best barometer for confidence in the economy, was also the as-yet unaddressed Jordanian demand for an end to the damaging inspections of all Aqaba-bound vessels by a U.S.-led task force patrolling the Red Sea.

His Majesty King Hussein reaffirmed the position last week and also spoke of rising despair and disappointment among the people of the region who wanted to enjoy the fruits of peace.

"There are many at the AFM who take swift advantage of short-term developments to reap gains," said another broker. "For them any shadow over the peace process or the overall economy is just another way to make money."

"But then, that is how all stock markets work."

Rafsanjani: 'Unjust' subsidies must go

TEHRAN (R) — The Iranian government is paying nearly \$15 billion in subsidies each year, much of it to the rich under an unjust system which must be overhauled, President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said Friday.

Mr. Rafsanjani singled out the subsidy on energy — a staggering \$11 billion, more than Iran's projected crude oil export revenue this year — and bread as the main items to be tackled, but acknowledged it was politically risky.

"Unfortunately, subsidies which have started at different times in our country have piled up. They have weakened the pillars of the economy and created amazing injustice," he said in a mass prayer sermon broadcast on Tehran radio.

"We reformed many items during the first five-year plan (ended on March 20), but we still have far to go. We should act in a planned way. People should not be put under pressure. It is dangerous," he said.

Saying that some subsidies dated back to World War II, Mr. Rafsanjani took pride that his administration had cut subsidies despite "taking some flak" breaking with the practice of governments bequeathing the burden for their successors rather than taking action and risking popular discontent.

Mr. Rafsanjani's economic reform programme has run into criticism in parliament. Deputies postponed debate on the second five-year plan for 12 months and voted down prop-

osed fuel and electricity price rises for the year started March 21.

That means motorists can fill up for just over \$1 for another year, driving on some of the world's cheapest petrol.

Mr. Rafsanjani said the price the government charged for energy covered just a tiny fraction of the cost and the rich who consumed more energy benefited most.

Domestic fuel and electricity consumption amounted to 1.4 million barrels per day (b/d) of oil plus natural gas equivalent to 800,000 b/d of oil, he said.

"That is about 11 billion at today's oil price... we spend that without earning anything in return," Mr. Rafsanjani said.

By comparison, the French government earned \$40 billion in taxes on importing a similar amount of oil, he said.

The bread subsidy — part of a 6.2 trillion rial (\$3.5 billion) list he said took up one-fifth of the government budget this year — was unjust because it applied only to urban dwellers, the president said.

He said he had no qualms about some subsidies, such as 626 billion rials (\$360 million) for agriculture and 400 billion rials (\$230 million) for upkeep of families of martyrs of the Islamic revolution and the Iran-Iraq war.

Other items, notably 210 billion rials (\$120 million) for haj, the annual Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca, were debatable, he added.

Lustre still lingers on Lebanon's gold trade

BEIRUT (R) — Postwar Lebanon may no longer be the centre of the Middle East gold trade but it still retains a substantial position in the region's gold dealing, Beirut dealers say.

With no taxes or other restrictions on the import and export of gold bars to and from Lebanon, Beirut remains a very attractive market, mainly to Arab dealers, they say.

"We are not what we were in the 60s," dealer Farouq Tabbara told Reuters. "But our position is definitely not weak, it is acceptable."

Dealers estimate that total weekly sales range between 400 and 1,000 kilograms of gold bars.

They import the gold from Switzerland and add \$2.25 per ounce on the price fixed in London.

Half the gold goes directly to exporters and the rest to Lebanese jewellers who also export most of their finished products, the dealers said.

The biggest customers are Syria, Jordan and Gulf Arab states followed by Turkey.

The market is relatively small compared with the golden days before civil war broke out in 1975, when dealers estimate that 500 kilograms of gold was traded every day.

Reasons for the decline include postwar impoverishment causing a drop in local jewellery purchases and the continued absence of foreign tourists, dealers say.

But the main reason is that Dubai and Turkey have relaxed import restrictions on gold in recent years and are better placed to compete with Beirut for the regional gold trade.

Beirut dealers say they want the trade to be developed as part of the revived financial markets that the government is trying to create to help post-war reconstruction.

"We have submitted a plan to the central bank organising the trade. Officials there are studying it and we hope it will be approved," Mr. Tabbara

said without giving details. Dealers say gold is still used as a "safe haven" by small investors in some Arab states, particularly Syria, but not by the Lebanese, even during the worst day of the war.

"The Lebanese always preferred the liquidity of foreign currencies, namely the U.S. dollar, to gold," dealer Michel Bassoul said.

He said the market had been more active during some periods of the 1975-90 war when there was "lots of war money" in the country from drugs and arms sales.

Paris Club agrees \$8b Polish debt cut

PARIS (R) — The Paris Club of Western government lenders said Friday it had agreed to cut Poland's \$34 billion official debt by \$8 billion.

The decision, made at a meeting on Thursday by club representatives, implements the second half of a 1991 deal which effectively cuts Poland's debt to the Paris Club by 50 per cent.

"They have decided to grant Poland the additional debt reduction linked to this second stage, bringing the overall debt reduction under the agreement to 50 per cent in net present value terms," the French economy ministry said.

Jan Wojnowski, a spokesman for the Polish finance ministry, said the decision was made following consultations with the International Monetary Fund. The fund's approval of Warsaw's compliance with a standby loan agreement for 1993 was one of the conditions for granting the reduction.

The IMF had already approved Poland's economic performance in 1993 and its budget plan for this year, which were also conditions for the second half of the Paris Club debt reduction. Mr. Wojnowski said a debt-reduction deal with Poland's commercial creditors in March also eased the way for the Paris Club

move. The Paris Club agreed to halve some \$34 billion of debt owed by Poland to foreign governments in April 1991 — granting generous terms previously reserved for only the poorest developing countries.

Poland, the first eastern European state to free itself from communist rule, argues that the debts were accumulated through the mismanagement of the communist rulers.

The French economy ministry, which acts as secretary to the Paris Club, said the deal's success would, like other club deals, depend on Warsaw winning similarly generous terms from its commercial bank creditors.

It said the club "reserves the right to review this decision in the light of the implementation of the agreement in principle reached on March 10, 1994, between Poland and the working party for commercial banks debt negotiations."

After three years of haggling, a package was finally agreed by commercial banks on March 10, cutting Warsaw's \$13 billion debt to them by 42.5 per cent. The Paris Club briefly delayed a decision on the second-tranche of its deal pending checks that the commercial banks' package was as generous as its own.

Dollar continues to trade in relatively narrow ranges

This report by Nasser Nabulsi, private client group, Merrill Lynch-Dubai, analyses movements and trends of key world currencies. Prices are given as of Wednesday, April 13, 1994.

Overview

Fundamental View: The dollar continues to trade in relatively narrow ranges against both the yen and the Deutschmark, frustrating both bulls and bears alike. Lackluster U.S. economic data on retail sales for March has undercut the dollar, even though it no longer holds much of an interest rate disadvantage relative to the Deutschmark. The dollar should eventually rise further against the Deutschmark as German interest rates decline by more than expected.

Japan's political uncertainty seems unlikely to weaken the yen, which should remain strong as part of U.S. policy to boost exports and narrow Japan's huge current account surplus. We maintain our 12-month targets of JPY/USD 95 and DM/USD 1.80.

Technical View: The U.S. dollar index rallied 0.7% last week, despite the fact that the greenback was only able to post gains against three of the six currencies that we monitor. However, those three were important: The Deutschmark, the Japanese yen, and the Swiss franc. Put/call ratios for the dollar are oversold, and short term momentum is constructive. This suggests that the rally of recent days has further to go. Medium term momentum still has a downward bias, but is showing signs of bottoming.

All of this suggests that the underlying February-April corrective pattern is coming to an end. The inability, so far, to break 92.80 support further adds to the prospects for a bottom. Resistance at 95.50-95.90 is important in the sense that a rally through that range would allow for a test of the February high (97.10) and would suggest that the dominant long term dollar uptrend was finally reasserting itself.

Japanese yen

Fundamental view: The dollar continues to trade in a relatively narrow range against the yen. If anything, Hosokawa's resignation may be viewed as bullish for the Japanese economy and the yen if it speeds passage of the fiscal 1994 budget that has been held up by political bickering. Growing expectations that Foreign Minister Hata will become the coalition government's new prime minister do not point to any breakthrough on U.S.-Japan trade relations any time soon, and the U.S. is likely to continue to move towards imposing trade sanctions on Japan, having rejected proposed trade concessions by the Japanese on March 29. As long as that is the case, many market participants may continue to believe that the administration favours yen appreciation as a way of cutting Japan's trade surplus.

We remain neutral on the yen's prospects in the next few months. The yen is still within the 100-to-110 range that both Japan and the U.S. appear content to live with for the time being. Interest rate trends could favour the dollar as the Fed

continues to push up the federal funds rate towards 4% by mid-year, but trade frictions could well heat up ahead of a planned meeting between President Clinton and Japan's next prime minister at the G-7 summit in Naples this July. Longer-term, persistent current account surpluses should keep upward pressure on the yen.

Even if Japan agrees to some market access measures for U.S. companies, we still expect a current account surplus of nearly \$120 billion this year. That should help the yen to continue to trade in the JPY/USD 100-to-110 range for most of this year and we expect it to reach a level as high as JPY/USD 95 by this time next year.

Technical view: The Japanese yen fell 1.5% versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended April 8, making it the weakest currency of the six we most regularly discuss. Sentiment is neutral to near oversold. Short term momentum is peaking. Medium term momentum remains constructive, but it, too, appears to be close to a top. While a test of resistance at 101 JPY/USD is still possible, the downside pressures are mounting.

The area around 106.40 is viewed as first support, but it should be noted that it would require a decline through 110 to break a multi-year uptrend line.

Deutschmark

Fundamental view: The dollar continues to trade in a narrow range against the Deutschmark. Dollar bulls are emphasising the likelihood that German interest rates will fall by more than expected as monetary tightening by the Fed eases the Deutschmark's remaining interest rate advantage for short maturities. Dollar bears emphasise the Bundesbank's cautious approach towards monetary easing and the likelihood that the Fed will have to tighten policy only modestly in coming quarters. With no cut in German official interest rates expected until late April or May, the currency market should remain sensitive to economic data from the U.S. for the second quarter.

Our U.S. analysts do not expect U.S. growth to slow to less than 4% until the fourth quarter, which suggests to us the prospect of further gradual monetary tightening by the Fed and a gradual appreciation of the U.S. dollar. German economic data is consistent with a flat-to-negative first quarter, pointing to further disinflation ahead.

With German inflation expected to decline 2% or less next year, we continue to look for German short-term interest rates to fall to 4% even as U.S. short-term interest rates rise above that level. We continue to look for the dollar to rise to the DM/USD 1.80 level in 6-months time and to continue to trade around that level in 12-months.

Technical view: The Deutschmark fell 1.0% against the U.S. dollar last week. Sentiment continues to deteriorate and remains overbought. Short term momentum is weak, but medium term momentum still has an upward bias and has the potential to remain so into late April or early May. All of this implies that higher highs are still possible in coming weeks, but

the currency's rally trend is now mature.

With all of this in mind, a rally through 1.65-1.66 DM/USD could still be enough to signal a challenge of last October's 1.59 high. Support is at 1.726-1.74, a decline through that range would imply a test of the currency's February lows at 1.765. Short term momentum for the mark/yen cross-rate is weak but near oversold, and medium term momentum appears to be in a bottoming process.

We still think that any further weakness in coming weeks could complete a longer term bottoming process and set the stage for an important rally. In that regard, the area near 63.00 is still viewed as both chart and momentum resistance.

Pound sterling

Fundamental view: The British pound continued to strengthen against the Deutschmark, trading recently at DM/GBP 2.53. We expect the pound to rise to DM/GBP 2.65 in 12 months as short-term DM interest rates fall by 140 basis points compared to little change in sterling rates. The pound should also be supported by a substantial yield premium over German bonds. We now expect no further reductions in the base interest rate because markets responded unfavourably to the last cut, which was believed to be politically motivated. This upcoming elections in May and June would preclude a cut at this time. The pound appreciated against the dollar this week to U.S.\$/GBP 1.48.

We expect the pound to trade at U.S.\$/GBP 1.47 in 12 months as pound appreciation against the DM is roughly offset by DM depreciation against the dollar.

Technical view: The British pound advanced a relatively modest 0.2% versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended April 8. Sentiment remains neutral. The currency remains in its multi-month trading range, and short term momentum appears to be bottoming. However, medium term momentum continues to offer little definition (although there is a slight upward bias). The lower end of the trading range at 1.46 U.S.\$ is support; a break below that would allow for at least a test of the 1993 low near \$1.43 and possibly long term support at \$1.40-\$1.42.

The \$1.50-\$1.51 range is the viewed as first resistance. A rally through second resistance at \$1.55 would set the stage for a challenge of the long term benchmark at \$1.60. The DM cross-rate has rallied to near 2.53 and short term momentum is still constructive, medium term momentum oscillators remain weak. A break below 2.485 would set the stage for a challenge of 2.43-2.44. Resistance is at 2.53-2.56.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY APRIL 16, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Gaining important headway today with the double Moon square to Uranus and Mars isn't going to be easy, especially with unexpected company dropping in uninvited. Avoid that accomplished troublemaker.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A day to look into modern methods and ideas through which to advance more quickly in your career. Be more poised and happy in whatever you do.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Steer clear of persons who like to argue. Take time to study a new project that could mean more abundance and prestige in the future.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A modern thinking person can give you valuable advice now, so be sure to follow it. Take no risks with money or the property you own.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Avoid an oldtime contact who could deter your progress right now. Plan modern ways of advancement to get you what you truly desire.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Look over your surroundings and make sensible plans for improvement. Be careful of one who is jealous of you and you great success.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Have a long talk with an ally and make future operations

more functional. Take time to engage in a favourite hobby for your own pleasure.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Make a stronger effort to improve your image in the community, but don't worry about snide remarks made by others who are jealous of your success.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Waste no time in putting creative ideas to work and make the future brighter. Show more affection for your mate and you will both be very happy.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Plan how to improve home conditions and be happier from now on. Be more willing to cooperate with others and you will be more successful.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Attend to routine chores early in the day so you will have more time for recreation later. Make new friends today who can be helpful.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Find a better and more modern way of handling money and property affairs. Accept suggestions from a newcomer on how to complete any new project.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your personal aims are vital to you now, so plan how to make more progress toward gaining them. Think constructively on how to accomplish more.

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VIRTE
OAPIN
GOYNEX
AUSANE



WHAT SHE THOUGHT OF HER CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH.

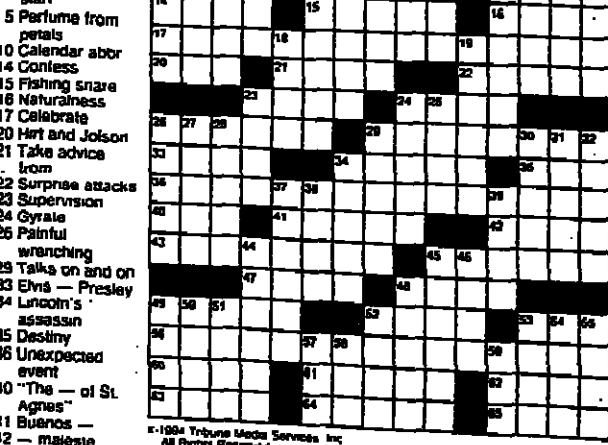
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: " " (Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BLOOM BAGGY MOHARR FLEECE
Answer: Combine classical and popular music and you get this — BACH AND ROLL.

THE Daily Crossword

by Diane C. Baldwin



ACROSS
1 Short or pony
2 Egg-shaped
5 Perfume from petals
10 Calendar labor
14 Contests
15 Fishing snare
16 Nourishment
17 Celebrate
20 Hirt and Jolson
21 Take advice
22 Surprise attack
23 Supervision
24 Optics
25 Painful
26 Whining
28 Talk on and on
32 Bird — Presley
34 Lincoln's assassin
35 Destiny
36 Unexpected event
40 "The — of St. Agnes"
41 Business
42 — majesty
43 Ribbon
44 Kind of dove
45 Contended
46 Diamond cover
49 Adjective for the Silvio tongue.
52 Janet of justice
53 Hail
54 Western clown
56 June 6, 1944
61 Washer cycle
62 Post's opposite
63 Males
64 Dark-brown fur
65 Octagonal sign
66 Down
1 Family member
2 Egg-shaped
3 Clark's girl
4 Hold title to
5 Nautical word
6 Snacker
7 Neck and neck
8 Opp. of syn.
9 Antique car
10 Right payer
11 Males
12 Spent
13 Slippy film
14 Asian
15 Squirm in pain
16 Floss language
17 Call the —
18 (exercise control)
19 Broad sword
20 Utah only
21 Parts
22 Armies
23 Novelist
24 Gasgaw
25 Warden
26 Ranch animal
27 Attached with
28 wife
29 of passage
30 Sonar range
34 Author Waugh
35 Quick look
36 "Pretty makes all
37 Mr. Preminger
38 — Migration
39 Famous
40 Carson
41 Ovens

Peanuts



Mutt'n'Jeff



ASIAN FINANCIAL MARKETS				
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ORIENTED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (19/04/1994 - 22/04/1994)				
WEEKLY REPORT				
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	354,300	199.500	197.500	187.500
SHARIF BANK	725,776	1.300	1.250	1.250
HOUSING BANK INVESTMENT BANK	90,740	4.710	4.770	4.800
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	145,931	3.400	3.380	3.300
THE HOUSING BANK	26,526	3.200	3.230	3.150
JORDAN RENTAL BANK	144,025	5.800	5.850	5.800
JORDAN CREDIT BANK	488,831	3.140	3.100	3.200
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	118,150	2.200	2.200	2.100
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	228	4.550	4.550	4.550
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	289,443	4.480	4.480	4.200
WEST JORDAN BANK FOR SAVINGS & INVESTMENT	289,443	4.480	4.480	4.200
WEST JORDAN BANK	11,520	5.100	5.100	5.170
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	29,009	4.120	4.120	4.100
BEST JORDAN SAVINGS/INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	138,246	5.710	5.710	5.700
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	2,778	4.800	4.570	4.500
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	534,956	5.000	5.070	5.000
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	940	4.900	4.700	4.700
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	274,429	2.400	2.400	2.200
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	5,448	3.900	3.800	3.700
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	30,128	2.800	2.800	2.500
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	9,184	4.500	4.500	4.500
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	40,407	3.120	3.120	3.000
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	23,710	2.720	2.720	2.810
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	4,702	2.950	2.950	2.950
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	2,058	4.910	4.950	4.900
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	129,519	2.110	2.120	2.000
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	27,771	1.480	1.450	1.400
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	938	0.750	0.750	0.750
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	89,446	6.800	6.800	6.800
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	57,616	2.500	2.540	2.670
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	9,109	0.770	0.740	0.720
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	75,081	4.400	4.430	4.300
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	1,521	1.620	1.600	1.610
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	889	0.900	0.860	0.920
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	2,008	1.310	1.300	1.270
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	7,610	1.170	1.150	1.100
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	16,073	13.300	13.000	13.000
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	48,402	2.120	2.100	2.010
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	75,740	3.920	3.920	3.800
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	1,284	21.000	21.000	21.000
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	201,789	2.840	2.730	2.840
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	240,599	2.900	2.900	2.900
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	11,800	50.000	50.000	50.000
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	29,787	10.100	10.050	9.900
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	731	2.150	2.150	2.070
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	18,778	2.120	2.120	2.000
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	180,185	12.100	12.000	12.700
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	77,109	7.700	7.600	7.620
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	950	0.800	0.800	0.750
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	5,725	3.000	3.000	3.000
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	74,342	0.800	0.820	0.820
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	7,378	4.500	4.500	4.600
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	30,373	19.470	18.500	17.300
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	18,971	3.500	3.400	3.700
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	14,351	0.800	0.800	0.800
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	915,873	19.500	18.500	18.600
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	39,077	7.100	7.100	7.000
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	206,802	7.700	7.650	7.700
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	479,290	0.810	1.200	1.210
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	1,815	1.500	1.500	1.500
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	7,345	1.500	1.500	1.450
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	4,472	0.540	0.530	0.500
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	11,475	5.000	5.000	4.750
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	19,705	3.000	2.950	2.930
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	2,236	5.200	5.440	5.400
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	21,741	2.100	2.080	2.070
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	10,138	7.430	7.400	7.500
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	9,540	4.800	4.850	4.800
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	2,741	1.410	1.380	1.070
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	14,879	0.360	0.340	0.350
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	24,127	1.300	1.250	1.550
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	28,406	0.900	0.900	0.900
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	26,729	2.310	2.120	2.180
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	62,748	0.930	0.930	0.930
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	5,189	2.150	2.150	2.150
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	82,715	2.320	2.300	2.300
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	610,764			

Philippines to reduce overseas workers

MANILA (R) — The Philippines plans to reduce the number of Filipino workers in Malaysia and other countries because of job opportunities at home are growing, President Fidel Ramos has said.

Mr. Ramos's statement contradicts official statistics which show that the unemployment rate has risen to 8.6 per cent in January this year from eight

per cent a year ago.

Officials said the planned cutback of workers in Malaysia had no relation to last month's roundup by Malaysian police of 1,200 Filipina maids in Kuala Lumpur on suspicion some of them were illegal entrants.

Mr. Ramos told his weekly news conference the Labour Department had drawn up

plans to slow down the sending of workers abroad and these would be implemented very soon.

"This should be seen as a sign of our implementing our policy of gradually diminishing the numbers of our overseas workers because job opportunities are starting to be generated here in the Philippines," he said.

A total of 5.7 million Filipinos are currently unemployed or underemployed out of a total workforce of 26 million, officials say.

There are about two million Filipinos working overseas. They include seamen on merchant ships, domestic workers, labourers and professionals driven to work abroad for scarcity of jobs at home.

Casablanca Bourse booms with new investments

CASABLANCA, Morocco (R) — Trading on the Casablanca Bourse soared by more than 1000 per cent in the first quarter of 1994 mainly due to a rapid privatisation programme and the inflow of foreign investment, officials said.

"Trading on Casablanca's stock market rose by 1.131 per cent in the first quarter of 1994 compared with the same period of last year," bourse director Abdel Razak Laraki told Reuters.

Officials reported a transaction record of 2.1 billion dirhams (\$220 million) in the first quarter of 1994 compared with 18.1 million during the same period last year.

"The adoption of stock market reforms by the government attracted foreign and Moroccan investors interest," Mr. Laraki said.

He added that in the last

nine months 30 foreign investors had been active on the market because "Morocco is seen as an emerging market."

He named investment houses Lehman Brothers, Morgan Stanley, Solomon Brothers and international financier George Soros as among those active on the bourse.

"The boom is also due to the privatisation of state enterprises such as the Compagnie des Transports Marocains-Ligne Nationale (CTM-L.N.), the Ciments de l'Orient (CIOR) and the state SOFAC-Credit," Adil Douiri of the Casablanca Finance Group said.

The CTM-L.N., CIOR and the automobile credit agency SOFAC-Credit together sold 1.95 million shares on the Casablanca stock market. The offers were four times oversubscribed, the ministry of priva-

tisation said.

Offers came mainly from foreign investors, Moroccan workers abroad and from local bankers, an official said.

Privatisation Minister Abdel Rahman Saadi said in a recent interview with Reuters that more than 100 state enterprises are to be sold off.

Among the companies slated for privatisation is the Societe Nationale des Investissements (SNI), estimated to be worth \$104 million.

The official Exchange Control Bureau said in a recent report that private foreign investments rose by 26.3 per cent to \$574 million. French and British investors were among the most active.

Founded in 1929, the bourse has 72 listed stocks, it was recently renamed the Societe Gestionnaire de la Bourse with its own watchdog body.

Schneider files for bankruptcy

FRANKFURT (R) — A court in the German town of Koenigstein said Friday the financially troubled German property development company Dr. Juergen Schneider A.G. had filed for Bankruptcy. The court added that a first meeting between the company and its creditors had been scheduled for May 17. At talks between executives of the Schneider group and creditor banks on Thursday, banks agreed to set up a group to see what could be salvaged from the property empire of Juergen Schneider, who disappeared a week ago leaving the heavily-indebted company financially paralysed.

A statement from the company said the group wanted to see to what extent Schneider's building projects could be continued and how many jobs could be saved. However, the banks made clear in a statement after the talks that the companies in the Schneider group would probably not be able to carry on operations in the longer term.

Algeria says low oil price forced debt rescheduling

TUNIS (R) — Algeria's central bank governor has said that the country's creditors knew that low crude oil prices left it no choice but to seek rescheduling of its medium and long-term foreign debt.

"Algeria's partners know that for years Algeria avoided resorting to rescheduling its external debt despite the heavy cost of debt servicing," Abdul Wahab Karamane told the official Algerian APS news agency, monitored in Tunis.

"They also know that the recent decline in the price of crude oil left it with no other choice," he added.

He gave no figures for Algeria's medium and long term debt which would be eligible for rescheduling, but experts value the debt at between \$11 and \$13 billion.

Algeria's total foreign debt is estimated at \$20 billion.

Mr. Karamane also defended Algeria's reform measures, including a recent devaluation of the dinar, to pave the way for an International Monetary Fund (IMF) loan.

"We consider that the agreement Algeria has reached and the programme contained in the letter of intent are indeed austere, but the least austere possible considering the circumstances," he told APS.

There are no other surprise measures in the drawers that

may be foreseen," Mr. Karamane said.

Algeria, hit by the prolonged weakness of world oil prices, has been negotiating with the IMF since November for a \$1.0 billion standby loan.

A key issue in its IMF negotiations was over how much to devalue the dinar. The army-backed authorities in Algeria feared social unrest if they adopted too harsh a programme of economic reform.

On Saturday, Algeria devalued the dinar by 28.6 per cent in international terms, or by 40.17 per cent according to the measure Algerians use.

Inflation is running at 30 per cent and many of Algeria's factories are running at 30 per cent capacity because of a shortage of hard currency to pay for imports of raw materials.

Newspapers recently said experts were drawing up documents and talks with the Paris Club of creditors on debt rescheduling might begin by mid to end May.

One expert said Algeria would seek rescheduling of \$13.5 billion starting December 1994.

Mr. Karamane stressed Algeria was not seeking to reschedule short-term debt.

Algerian officials say Japan's support is vital if it is to reach agreement with the Paris Club.

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Financial Markets

Jordan Times
In co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank
U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date 13/4/94	Tokyo Close Date 14/4/94
Sterling Pound	1.4759	1.4756
Deutsche Mark	1.7090	1.7103
Swiss Franc	1.4400	1.4415
French Franc	5.8475	5.8508**
Japanese Yen	103.30	103.00
European Currency Unit	1.1328	1.1313**

USD Per STD
European Opening = 650 U.S. DOLLAR
Source: Reuters
Date: 14/4/1994

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.5000	3.7500	4.0600	4.7500
Sterling Pound	4.8100	4.9400	5.1300	5.4400
Deutsche Mark	5.5600	5.4400	5.3100	5.1300
Swiss Franc	5.9400	5.8800	5.8100	5.7500
French Franc	5.8800	5.8800	5.8100	5.7500
Japanese Yen	2.0000	2.0000	2.1300	2.3600
European Currency Unit	6.1800	6.1200	6.0000	5.9300

Source: Reuters
Date: 14/4/1994

Jordanian Dinar	2.0000	2.0000	2.0000	2.0000
European Currency Unit	6.1800	6.1200	6.0000	5.9300

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin
Date: 14/4/1994

S. Africans pick up the pieces after foreign mediation fails

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africans were left to pick up the pieces Friday after foreign mediators failed to get to grips with their country's intractable political problems less than two weeks before historic all-race elections.

"We are on our own now... but then we never really expected anything from mediation," said ANC official Baleka Gkotsile, commenting Thursday night's departure of seven mediators led by ex-U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and former British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington.

"I really don't know if they should have come to start with," Ms. Gkotsile said of the failed mission to bridge the yawning gap between the ANC and the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party of Mangosuthu Buthelezi, which is boycotting the April 26-28 elections.

Mr. Buthelezi, who wants virtual autonomy for KwaZulu-Natal in post-apartheid South Africa, effectively scuttled the peace bid by demanding the agenda should include delaying the poll. ANC leader Nelson Mandela and President F.W. De Klerk ruled out any delay.

Dr. Kissinger, announcing the collapse of the mission, told reporters: "Our group was unanimous that at no stage and under no circumstances would we involve with the question of the election date."

Ms. Gkotsile said she was not aware of any planned political initiatives to try to draw

Inkatha into the elections, which the ANC is widely expected to win.

The collapse has sparked fears of more unrest in Mr. Buthelezi's stronghold KwaZulu-Natal, where 218 people, five Thursday, have been killed in political unrest since a state of emergency was declared in the volatile area on March 31.

More than 10,000 people have been killed in a decade-long turf war in the volatile region, most in clashes between supporters of Inkatha and those of the ANC.

Nobel Peace Prize winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu led a church delegation to the KwaZulu capital Ulundi Friday to meet Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini, who with Inkatha is holding talks with the government and ANC on the Zulu monarchy's future. KwaZulu is the heartland of South Africa's 8.5 million Zulus whose loyalties are fiercely contested by the two main black parties.

But King Goodwill told the church leaders he could not advise his people to vote in an election "which will establish a constitution under which there will be another attempt to destroy Zulu sovereignty."

Despite the unrest, the chairman of the independent electoral commission running the election, said he was confident that voting would be largely unhindered. "Notwithstanding the flaws in our society we can produce substantially

free and fair elections," said Judge Johann Kriegler.

Mr. De Klerk said Friday that despite the failed foreign mediation, the four-way talks with King Goodwill should continue. The king has said, however, that the question of the monarchy cannot be separated from the impasse keeping rejectionist Inkatha out of the transition to majority rule.

"We are all concerned at the break up of mediation. This brings to the fore the importance of continued negotiations with regard to the Zulu monarchy," Mr. De Klerk said in Pretoria.

He told reporters a task group, formed to look into King Goodwill's position, had produced a joint document which the government, ANC, Inkatha and King Goodwill were considering.

ANC officials said they did not hold out much hope that Mr. Buthelezi would agree to the new terms offering the king wide constitutional powers but a four-way summit was possible next week if progress was made. "As we found with the mediation terms... Inkatha negotiators agreed with them, but Mr. Buthelezi rejected them. This is the problem we are faced with," said one.

Mr. De Klerk tacitly acknowledged in a nationally televised debate Thursday night that his National Party would come second to Mr. Mandela's ANC in the elections after which a national unity government will come to power.

Both he and Mr. Mandela repeated pledges made frequently in the last few months that they would revive the economy and address South Africa's twin crises of unemployment and housing. But both were anxious to put across a message of reconciliation.

In a gesture towards the end of the debate, witnessed by a television audience of millions, Mr. Mandela reached across and clasped Mr. De Klerk's hand, saying: "I am proud to hold your hand."

Meanwhile, for the first time in their lives, blacks gathered in the lounge of the YWCA hall in Soweto could watch one of their leaders publicly debate a white president.

And when the globally televised exchange ended, they applauded and cheered, convinced Nelson Mandela had shown the future to anyone who doubted that white rule would end in less than two weeks.

"From now, since we watched that television, I think things will change for our country," said a grinning Mark Ndlovu, 54, a manager at the YWCA centre in the Soweto black township. "We've been oppressed for so many years. At last, we hope something will change."

It was a final step in the ascension of Mr. Mandela from saboteur jailed for 27 years to the man expected to be South Africa's first black president after the vote.



African National Congress President Nelson Mandela (left) and South African President F. W. De Klerk shake hands prior to a television debate which was televised internationally in Johannesburg (AFP photo)

5 renegade MPs leave Japan's LDP

TOKYO (R) — Five renegade lawmakers resigned from the once-dominant Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Friday in a move that could spark new defections and reduce severely the strength of Japan's biggest political party.

"We have handed in our resignations to LDP Headquarters," said former State Minister Michihiko Kano, one of the rebels.

"We want a role in political realignment... and plan to appeal to pro-reformers in the LDP to join us in creating a new group," said Mr. Kano, who like the other four is from an LDP faction led by ex-Trade Minister Hiroshi Mitsuoka.

The five pro-reformers, who plan to form their own group, said their action was not connected to a bid by LDP baron Michio Watanabe to launch a splinter party.

supporters, the veteran politician told reporters earlier Friday he was seriously considering launching a new party in hopes of becoming prime minister.

After failing to muster a majority in general elections in July 1993, the scandal-tainted LDP was forced to give up its 38-year grip on power and move to the opposition bench. It still remains the largest political party.

Mr. Ozawa and Mr. Take-mura wooed popular reform crusader Morihiro Hosokawa and his Japan New Party to join centrists and left-wingers to create an eight-way coalition to take over.

NHK public television said another LDP group, pro-reformers under former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, would meet Friday to discuss leaving the conservative party.

It was unclear how many of the 50 or so lawmakers in Mr. Watanabe's faction would join their leader in leaving the LDP. News reports estimated anywhere from a dozen to 30 might go.

Yet Mr. Watanabe's ally, former Yasuhiro Nakasone, was less than enthusiastic about talks of mutiny. "I think we should be very careful before making a final decision," he said.

Mr. Watanabe began moves to break away after the LDP refused earlier this week to endorse him as its official candidate in the parliamentary vote. Twice in the past, the veteran politician has bid unsuccessfully for the premiership.

Russian flotilla starts 'training exercises'

KIEV (AP) — A flotilla of Russian-controlled warships took to sea Friday, causing new friction between Russia and Ukraine as their leaders prepared to meet in Moscow to Divvy up the Black Sea Fleet.

"We know at least nine ships have left their moorings, but we don't know whether they are just training or are preparing to start a war," Mikola Savchenko, spokesman for the Ukrainian Navy in Sevastopol, told the Associated Press.

Russian officials said the ships were starting an ordinary training exercise unrelated to tensions between the two most powerful former Soviet Republics.

The Interfax and ITAR-TASS news agencies said the flotilla numbered 15 vessels, including 12 left Black Sea ports Friday.

Savchenko claimed Russian officers had not informed their Ukrainian partners in the fleet's operational command what movements the vessels would make.

"All we know is they are fully equipped with weapons, in a state of battle readiness, and could start a war if they so decide," he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gunmen kill Belfast woman

BELFAST (AP) — The Ulster Freedom Fighters, a Protestant-based paramilitary group, said Friday its gunmen killed a 33-year-old Belfast woman. Gunmen threw a brick through a window at Theresa Clinton's house late Thursday night. As she moved to the window the gunmen sprayed the house with gunfire, police said. Her husband, James, and their two daughters, who were upstairs at the time, were not harmed. The Ulster Freedom Fighters said their target was Mr. Clinton, who is a member of Sinn Fein, the legal, political party which supports the Irish Republican Army.

Senate passes French language bill

PARIS (R) — The French Senate has passed a controversial bill to erect barriers around the French language to stop a flood of English words and keep it alive in the technological age. The bill, sometimes mocked at home and abroad as a vain bid to turn a tide by decree, will make it illegal to use foreign words in public announcements and compulsory to let French people use their own language in seminars within the country. Although it does not name the offending invader language, the bill is clearly aimed at English, often accused of expanding aggressively in culture and trade and adulterating French into "Franglais." Sanctions, to be fixed later, are certain to include fines and loss of public subsidies. But, in a business-minded exception, it will not apply to selling French goods abroad. Part of a government offensive to keep French alive in the modern, technological world dominated by English, the bill adds up to a drive to protect French culture and expand La Francophonie — the club of French-speaking countries.

Thais deny latest Cambodian charge

BANGKOK (R) — The Thai military Friday denied suggestions from Cambodia that Khmer Rouge guerrillas launched tank attacks on Cambodian government forces from Thai territory. The charges by Cambodia's deputy chief of general staff, General Nheak Bun Chhay, carried in news reports published here Friday, were the latest in a series of bitter Cambodian accusations that Thailand still maintains links with the guerrillas. "That's impossible," armed forces spokesman Lieutenant-General Anusorn Krisnasarn told reporters when asked about the tank charge. "Tanks are big, it's impossible to hide them in Thailand and send them to Cambodia. If we were to do that, we would be condemned by the international community," he said.

Zhirinovskiy: West wants to destroy Russia

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian ultranationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy has a theory about his stolen cap: It has become a valuable collector's item. He also has a theory about the West: It is out to destroy Russia.

The two are intertwined in his mind: The cap is valuable because he is a great man. The West wants to destroy Russia because it could become a great empire again — with Zhirinovskiy in charge.

He elaborated on both theories Friday after returning from a Council of Europe meeting in Strasbourg, France, where he shocked his hosts by pelting demonstrators with plants and pebbles.

Mr. Zhirinovskiy left France raging about the hat, which went missing at a council reception. He came back raging about the West and saying Russia should steer clear of Western alliance as a matter of self-preservation.

Western groups have "beautiful slogans" about democracy and human rights, he told a news conference, but Western nations traffic in the body parts of kidnapped children.

Yeltsin, to sign civic accord on April 28

MOSCOW (AP) — President Boris Yeltsin has scheduled April 28 for the signing of an agreement with his hardline opponents to prevent political violence in Russia.

However, it is still unclear whether Communist and extreme nationalists will go along with Mr. Yeltsin's idea for all sides to pledge to pursue their goals peacefully.

Some say they will not sign the document, and others are drafting their own versions.

It is also unclear whether any piece of paper would restrain Russia's bitter extremists — the military and police — in a crisis.

In a presidential order Thursday, Mr. Yeltsin said the

fact would be signed in the Kremlin by an "assembly of civic accord." The timing appeared to be chosen to precede hardline rallies on May 1. A communist-era workers' holiday that has sparked violence in recent years.

The ceremonial assembly is intended to bring together all major political parties and coalitions. Mr. Yeltsin ordered an administration working group to finish drafting the document by April 20 and instructed his chief of staff, Sergei Filatov, to convene representatives from various parties to agree on the text.

An eight-page draft already was given to parliament members this month.

Mr. Yeltsin views the accord as a way to prevent a recurrence of last October's violence, when hard-line lawmakers and their armed supporters resisted his decree disbanding parliament. More than 140 people died in two days of fighting, ending with a Yeltsin-ordered tank barrage on the Russian White House, the old parliament building.

The proposed civic accord is loosely modeled on agreements signed by Spanish political groups after the death of dictator Francisco Franco in 1975. Mr. Yeltsin praised Spain's experience during a three-day trip to Madrid and Barcelona this week.

China to seek reassurances from C. Asia on separatism, Islam

BEIJING (Agencies) — Premier Li Peng is preparing to visit China's Central Asian neighbors next week to seek assurances they will not support the simmering separatism and Islamic fundamentalism already rooted in China's far west.

Mr. Li begins Monday a 12-day visit to Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Mongolia, taking up travel plans made for May 1993 but postponed after he fell ill with heart problems.

The key issue for China is to make sure developing national and religious sentiment in Central Asia does not spill across its own borders.

"Beijing wants stability in Central Asia and supports Russian intervention to secure it," said one Asian diplomat.

"Beijing wants secular governments in these countries and strongly opposes Islamic fundamentalism, for the effect it could have on its own large Muslim population," he said.

A recent study by the China Academy of Social Sciences said opening of the country's Western borders since the five Central Asian countries became independent in 1991 has promoted economic, cultural and political exchanges.

"But enemy forces and

separatist elements living abroad, under the pretext of nationalism, religion and human rights have attacked the relations among Chinese races and social stability," it said.

It said those most liable to provocation were the country's nearly 10 million Muslims living their religion and living style was the most different from China's other races.

Chinese minority populations — including Uighurs, Kazakhs, Tatars and Tajiks — have long been restive under Beijing's rule and have periodically flared into open opposition.

This occurred, again last year in a handful of incidents in Kashgar and Urumqi, in the western region of Xinjiang bordering the Central Asian state. Government buildings and military vehicles were attacked.

Meanwhile, the Dalai Lama urged the United States Thursday to use economic pressure to encourage China to make improvements in human rights.

Backing down to the Chinese government would discourage intellectuals and students who "eventually will bring democracy to China," the exiled leader of Tibet told reporters after addressing the Hawaiian legislature.

"The world community has the moral obligation to give every encouragement to this group of people," he said.

The Clinton administration has been pushing China to make progress on human rights as a condition for renewing China's favorable trade status, which entitles it to the lowest available tariffs on its exports.

The Dalai Lama, who fled Tibet in 1959 during a failed revolution against the Chinese Communists, said preservation of Tibetan culture is more important than political independence from China.

"In my own case, Tibet is an independent nation, there is no doubt. We have our own culture, heritage, language and customs and the race is different," he said.

"However, my main consideration is preserving Tibetan culture. I consider the preservation of culture more important than political independence."

In his address to lawmakers, the Dalai Lama praised the harmony Hawaii was within its cultural diversity.

"It is my hope and prayer that the spirit of this harmony could be extended and enjoyed by other parts of the world," he said.

S. Korea drops envoy exchange demand in nuclear row

SEOUL (R) — South Korea moved Friday to break an impasse over North Korea's suspected nuclear programme by deciding to drop demands for an envoy exchange with the Stalinist North.

North Korea has said the nuclear row could only be settled through high-level talks with the United States. But Seoul had insisted that envoys be exchanged and the North allow unimpeded international inspections of its nuclear sites before a Pyongyang-Washington meeting.

Unification Minister Lee Yung-Dug said in a statement the south now judged it would be difficult to resolve the nuclear issue through the envoy exchange because of North Korea's intransigence.

"We are no longer pushing for the exchange," Mr. Lee said.

Analysts said the decision, which came after a meeting of top security officials, represented a major concession by South Korea and might open the way for a diplomatic resolution of the prolonged crisis over the North's nuclear programme.

The North's refusal to allow full access to secret nuclear facilities prompted the U.N. Security Council to issue a statement on March 31 urging Pyongyang to allow inspections.

Pyeonggang, denying Western charges it is developing nuclear arms, has repeated threats of another war on the peninsula if it is pushed too far.

The two Koreas had on-off

contacts at the border early this year to discuss the envoy exchange, which Seoul had hoped would provide a turning point in resolving the nuclear row.

But the talks broke off on March 18 when North Korean delegates walked out of a meeting with the South, prompting Washington to cancel a third round of talks with Pyongyang.

Mr. Lee said Seoul would continue to pursue dialogue with the North even though it had dropped the envoy exchange demand.

"Inter-Korean dialogue must go on for mutual inspections of each other's nuclear facilities based on the (1991) joint declaration for denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula," he said.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Gallucci was due in Seoul later Friday to coordinate policies towards the North.

On the issue of North Korean workers fleeing logging camps in Russia, Mr. Lee said the Seoul government had decided to grant asylum to those wishing to come to the South.

He said South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-Joo, now in Moscow, had won a promise from the Russian government to help Seoul's efforts to bring defecting North Koreans to the South.

"Based on humanitarianism, we have decided to bring all escapees seeking asylum in the North following proper legal procedures," Mr. Lee said.

President Kim Young-Sam last week said about 90 North Korean loggers working in Russia had sought asylum in the South but were not accepted because it may provoke the North. But Mr. Kim Wednesday told his cabinet to review the issue.

North Korean watchers in Seoul said more than 150 Koreans have escaped North Korea-run lumber camps in Russia to seek asylum in South Korea or in third countries. They estimate up to 20,000 North Koreans work in Khabarovsk lumber camps north of Vladivostok.

U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry Thursday postponed a trip to Korea and Japan set to begin Friday because of the accidental downing of two U.S. helicopters by U.S. jets in Iraq. The trip had been announced earlier this week as tension remained high on the Korean peninsula over the North Korean nuclear issue.

Amid the tension, the United States has shipped Patriot anti-aircraft missiles to South Korea and decided to resume previously shelved plans with Seoul for annual "Team Spirit" war games with the South.

South Korean President Kim Young-Sam, in remarks made public Friday, said his country would be capable of defeating rival North Korea in the event of a war.

"We are able to detect North Korean military movements for a war at least 24 hours in advance, and we will

counter them instantly," Mr. Kim said Thursday in a meeting with senior journalists. A text of his remarks was made public Friday.

Kim said the 44 million South Koreans should not be over concerned about a possible North Korean attack and should trust their government to protect them. The nearly two million armed forces of both Koreas remain on alert.

South Korean officials have been worried that reports of possible military conflicts on the peninsula will adversely affect their economy, which has shown signs of recovery from years of recession.

Meanwhile, North Korea marked Friday the 82nd birthday of Kim Il-Sung, state founder and deified "great leader", in muted fashion, as befits a nation in dire economic straits and isolated on the world stage.

The usual hyperbole was present in the laudatory newspaper editorial and intermittent speeches by dignitaries.

Premier Kang Song-San hailed his chief as "a great statesman and a genius of creation and construction... with an unexcelled clairvoyance, scientific penetration, iron will and rare leadership ability."

Yet there was nothing to match the grandiose celebrations for Mr. Kim's 80th birthday, when Pyongyang proudly played host to then Chinese President Yang Shangkun. Cambodian leader Prince (now King) Sihanouk and several other Third World leaders.

Nude skiing banned at resort

CRESTED BUTTE, Colorado (R) — Nude skiing will not be allowed again at the Crested Butte ski resort, vow resort officials. About 40 male and female skiers, apparently celebrating the end of the ski season and the start of spring, skied down slopes without clothing on April 3, Easter Sunday. Later, some went to a mid-mountain bar, the Paradise Warming House, for drinks. Parents with children who saw the nude skiers complained. After talking with police, resort officials decided nude skiers will definitely not be allowed next season.

Drinkers beware of that 'one for the sidewalk'

ATLANTA (R) — U.S. health officials said pedestrians account for 14 per cent of all U.S. motor vehicle-related deaths, and many of the victims were drunk when they died. In most U.S. states, drivers are considered legally drunk if their blood alcohol levels are .10 or greater. Although there are no statutory levels of drunkenness for pedestrians killed in traffic accidents, the study said a drunken pedestrian was one with a blood-alcohol level of .10. In 1992, 5,546 pedestrians were killed in motor vehicle accidents, and 96,000 were injured, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.

Diamond necklace fetches world auction record

NEW YORK (R) — A diamond necklace designed by Harry Winston was an auctioneer's dream, bringing a record \$4,402,500. The necklace, with 168 diamonds weighing a total of 239 carats, sold at a Sotheby's auction to an anonymous buyer. Sotheby's said it was the most paid for a necklace at an auction, exceeding the previous record of \$3.52 million for a necklace sold in New York in 1989. "That's the right price. Just the fact that you can sell that in this market is quite a feat," said Sotheby's auctioneer and Executive Vice President John Block.

Spanish official sacked for insulting nun

MADRID (R) — A Spanish official was sacked after he told a distraught nun who phoned his ministry seeking information about colleagues trapped in Rwanda: "We are not here to look for lost nuns in the jungle." A statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Alvaro Ozores had been sacked and faced disciplinary procedures for his response to a call from a member of the missionary Sisters of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Sister Dolores Garcia phoned the ministry to ask for urgent help for three nuns trapped in a hospital at Kibuye, in Rwanda. She lodged a complaint after Mr. Ozores brushed her off. "The ministry considers that the treatment meted out by Alvaro Ozores was not in keeping with his responsibilities and correct, diplomatic procedures," said the statement released late Tuesday. Mr. Ozores apologized for his remark in a letter sent to the ministry. He said it was possible that "after so many calls, I gave an improper response as a result of the tiredness caused by the situation."

British child pornography library found

LONDON (R) — British police have seized a child pornography library stored in a university computer that could be linked to 160 countries. A 25-year-old research associate being questioned by police admitted operating the archive and publishing the material worldwide, a police spokesman said. Thousands of still colour pictures of children as young as two were found stored on computer discs at Birmingham University in central England. Police said they could be accessed through the Internet Communications Network, available to academic institutions, government departments and businesses across the world. Chief inspector Keith Bassett said: "There are 160 countries which access this system. Twenty million people can access it, whether in Brazil or Bombay." The Federal Bureau of Investigation tipped off British police after U.S. authorities "hacked" into the archive. Police did not say when the discs were seized but said the operator had not made any money from the pornography.

China forms professional league

BEIJING (R) — China has announced the formation of its first professional club soccer league which it hopes will improve the nation's chances of qualifying for the World Cup. "Our aim, according to the plan, is to enter the World Cup by the end of this century," said China Football Association (CFA) Chairman Wang Junsheng, adding with a smile: "But it will take us quite a long time to win it."

CFA officials told a news conference that the 12-club league would open April 17 and the season would run until Nov. 13. The league will be sponsored by a cigarette company and most clubs will receive financial support from local companies. In the past central and local government have paid players' salaries. "We are reforming our soccer by moving to a market system with the aim of raising standards and reaching the world level as soon as possible," said Wang. To the dismay of millions of fans, China failed to qualify for this year's World Cup finals in the United States and did not even reach the last Asian qualifying round. Soccer is the most popular sport in China and television

regularly shows English, Italian and German league matches as well as local games. The 12 league clubs will each be allowed to sign five foreign players, although no more than three can play in a match. Four Russian players have already signed contracts, three for Shanghai Shenhua and one for Shenyang, which also has a Russian trainer. "We hope more foreigners will play in our league," Wang said. "Perhaps we will have to wait until South American and European players come to China. We want to emulate the methods used by soccer clubs in advanced countries."

Knicks win their 2nd Atlantic Division title

WASHINGTON (R) — Rolando Blackman scored five points in the final 1:01, including a go-ahead three-pointer, as the New York Knicks clinched their second straight Atlantic Division title with a 111-106 victory over the Washington Bullets Thursday. Patrick Ewing led the Knicks with 33 points, including a running bank shot with 6.2 seconds left that sealed the win for New York. The Knicks snapped a three-game losing streak and won for only the second time in six games since winning 15 in a row. New York also moved into a tie with Atlanta for the best record in the Eastern Conference at 53-23.

Don MacLean scored 23 points to lead the Bullets, who lost for the 13th time in 16 games and fell to 22-54 on the season. At Utah, Karl Malone scored 23 points and Felton Spencer added a season-high 22-points and 17 rebounds as the Utah Jazz completed their first-ever season-sweep of the San Antonio Spurs with a 101-90 victory. The Jazz have won four straight games, and moved to within two games of Phoenix in the battle for fourth place in the Western Conference. David Robinson scored 31 points and grabbed 11 rebounds for the Spurs, who lost for the fifth time in their last six games. In Orlando, Larry Johnson scored 31 points and the Charlotte Hornets held off a furious fourth-quarter rally to defeat the Orlando Magic, 112-108. Alonzo Mourning added 17 points, including a key baseline

Salem wins Kharrane Race

By Munem Fakhoury
Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — Abdul Fattah Salem rode his Jood to victory on Friday in the first Desert Castles Ride (Al Kharrane Castle Endurance Ride), which was attended by His Majesty King Hussein, who presented trophies to the winners. Her Royal Highness Princess Alia gave the start signal at 8 a.m. at the Alia Gateway Hotel, launching the 55-kilometre race which witnessed fiery competition among the 58 participants till the end with some of them failing to reach the finish line for various reasons. Mr. Salem, of the Royal Stables, completed the two-stage race in two hours, 36 seconds. He was followed by Hani Bisharat of the Arabian Horse Club who was riding Sari. Mr. Bisharat's timing was 2 hours, 1 min., 23 seconds. The prize of the best rider and the best horse went to the Royal Polo Club's Abdullah Daoud and his horse Sarab, who were ninth in the overall standings. Her Royal Highness Princess Inan Bint Al Hussein, who participated in the junior class, managed to complete the race along with the other seven starters in the class. King Hussein expressed his satisfaction over the organization of the race and said the idea of holding such activities was commendable. "We encourage our youth to have an interest in horses because equestrian sports are the sports of our fathers and forefathers," the King said, noting that the Arab history was linked to horsemanship and horses. Also Princess Alia, who played a key role in organizing the race, thanked all those who contributed to its success.



His Majesty King Hussein on Friday presents trophies to winners of the Desert Castle Ride which was held under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein (below) who gave the start signal for the race (photos by Abdullah Ullayyan)



"I am looking forward to having this race as an Arab and international event in the future," said the Princess. Attending the race, the first of its kind organized by Royal Jordanian Arabian Horse Association, were also Their Royal Highnesses Princess Aisha and Princess Haya, Deputy Prime Minister Maan Abu Nuwar, Public Security Department (PSD) Director Maj-Gen. Abdul Rahman Al Edwan, other senior officials and large crowds of spectators. Following are the final standings of the race: 1- Abdul Fattah Salem of the Royal Stables riding Al Jood 2- Hani Bisharat of the Arabian Horse Club riding Sari 3- Tareq Abdul Latif of the Royal Stables riding Albing 4- Abdullah Hassan of the Royal Stables riding Humam 5- Mashhour Al Momani of the PSD riding Al Hunouf 6- Mohammad Ali of the Royal Racing Club riding Mawes 7- Suleiman Musa of the Royal Racing Club riding Al Mur'eb 8- Ahmad Al Daham of the Royal Equestrian Club riding Latif 9- Abdullah Al Daoud of the Royal Polo Club riding Sarab 10- Haitham Mohammad of the Aqaba Equestrian Club riding Rahwan.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cardamone retains Euro boxing title

VITORIA, Spain (R) — Agostino Cardamone from Italy retained his European middleweight boxing title by beating France's Gino Lelong on points over 12 rounds late Thursday. Cardamone, 28, proved his superiority early in the bout, fending him off with his powerful left-hand and using swift right-hand jabs to demolish his slower opponent. The judges decision was unanimous, with the final scores 120-111, 119-111 and 120-112.

Olympic champion Curry dead from AIDS

STRAITFORD-UPON-AVON, England (AP) — Former Olympic and world champion figure skater John Curry died Friday from an AIDS-related illness, his agent said. He was 44. Curry was diagnosed as having the HIV virus in 1987. He returned home in 1991 from the United States after being told he had full-blown AIDS. Curry won the Olympic gold medal and world championships in 1976.

Milan sell Papin to Bayern Munich

MILAN, Italy (R) — French international striker Jean Pierre Papin will move to Bayern Munich next season from AC Milan, the Italian soccer champions have announced. Milan's managing director Adriano Galliani said Papin, 30, had signed a two-year contract with Bayern worth 5.5 million marks (\$3.2 million). The Germans are currently on course for a record 13th league title.

Senna takes provisional pole position

AIDA, Japan (AP) — Ayrton Senna of Brazil took the provisional pole position Friday in his Williams-Renault on the first day of qualifying for the Pacific Grand Prix. Senna, who ranked No. 2 in last year's overall drivers' title, rounded the 3.702-kilometre T-1 Circuit in 1 minute, 10.218 seconds, averaging 189.8 kilometres per hour. Michael Schumacher of Germany, who won this year's opening race in Brazil last month, was just 0.222 second behind Senna in his Benetton-Ford. Senna's teammate Damon Hill, a Briton, followed Schumacher at 1:10.771. The race is the first Formula-One competition for the T-1 Circuit in Aida, in Okayama prefecture in western Japan and the first of two races scheduled in Japan this year. Japan Grand Prix is scheduled in Suzuka in late October.

Christie says can run 9.80

BONN (R) — Olympic 100 metres champion Linford Christie of Britain says he is capable of breaking Carl Lewis' world record twice this summer, lowering the mark to 9.80 seconds. In an interview published in the current edition of Leichtathletik, Germany's weekly athletics magazine, Christie says he is sure he will break the world record twice, "first 9.85 seconds, then 9.80." Lewis set the world record of 9.86 seconds when he won the world championship in Tokyo Aug. 25, 1991. "That record is long overdue to fall," said Christie. "I've trained like never before and set a European (60 metres) indoor record of 6.48 seconds. With that kind of form, the record is due this summer," he said. Christie also said he had "a score to settle" with the American.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMMAM HIRSHI
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K1097 752 ♠K6542 47
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ 1 NT Pass ?
What action do you take?
A.—You have a good hand, but don't lose sight of the fact you have little in the way of support for partner's suit. Also, since partner didn't make a takeout double, chances of finding four-card spade support are slight. Bid two diamonds and see what, if anything, develops. Partner can pass, since your bid isn't forcing.

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KQ3 78 ♠97542 ♠A653
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.—The expert bid is two spades. Since you didn't bid one spade over one heart, that can't be a real suit. It shows values in spades, a maximum no-trump response and an excellent fit for diamonds. If that call might be misunderstood by partner, be content with a raise to three diamonds—a jump to four diamonds would bypass three no trump.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KQ3 78 ♠97542 ♠A653
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.—This hand has become decidedly slamish. You have control of both black suits, a singleton in partner's first-bid suit and five-card support for the second. An advance cue-bid of four clubs is called for, showing first-round club control.

Q.4—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠J75 39 85 ♠AK10852
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ 1 ♠
What do you bid now?
A.—Your length in partner's suit all but wipes out the defensive potential of your hand. However, we would refrain from preemptive action for the moment, since the opponents have already introduced their suit. We would bid a quiet two clubs and listen to the auction. If necessary, a sacrifice can be considered later.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠KQ3 78 ♠97542 ♠A653
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What action do you take?
A.—On this auction it is quite likely your queen of clubs will be worthless. Nevertheless, suppressing good five-card support for partner's suit is a losing tactic. Even the Law of Total Tricks says you should raise to three hearts.

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K645 7A92 ♠J54 ♠J96
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.—When partner has jump shifted and you hold two prime controls and support for his suit, you are in slam territory. Don't bid three no trump—that's discouraging. For the moment, all you need do is set the trump suit by taking a preference to three diamonds.

Haiti athletes threaten suicide

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad (R) — Haitian football players have threatened to kill themselves if they are not granted asylum in the United States, a team spokesman said Thursday. The 18-man team, accompanied by five officials, came to Trinidad last week for the finals of the Shell Caribbean Cup. They have since been eliminated from the competition. Early Thursday the players turned up at the American embassy, but their applications for visas were rejected. Ears Jean-Baptiste told a local television station the athletes would be risking their lives if they tried to return home. "Many of them are prepared to commit suicide rather than take the chance of going back," he was quoted as saying on AVM television station. Jean-Baptiste said the team faced tremendous difficulties in leaving Haiti, and praised organisers for getting them to Trinidad.

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Lebanon detains pro-Iraqis after Suheil assassination

BEIRUT (AP) — The army grabbed 12 pro-Iraqi activists in house raids across South Lebanon on Friday as the Beirut government remained locked in a standoff with Iraq following the assassination of a prominent Iraqi dissident.

Military sources said leaders of an outlawed pro-Saddam Hussein wing of the Arab Socialist Baath Party were seized in the pre-dawn raids in the city of Sidon and other southern Lebanese towns.

Among those detained were the party's former leader Hassan Ghorrabey and lawyer Nimet Jami, both Shiite Muslims, the sources said. They spoke on condition of anonymity.

Lebanon, which is under Syria's undisputed influence, last year outlawed the pro-Iraqi Baath wing, which had roots among Sunni and Shiite Muslims in northern and southern Lebanon.

Syria, which has 40,000 troops stationed in Lebanon as peacekeepers, is governed by a rival Baath party faction headed by President Hafez Al Assad.

The sources said the move against Iraqi-aligned Baathists was a precaution against renewal of pro-Saddam sentiment at a time two Iraqi embassy diplomats were held in Beirut in connection with the assassination of Sheikh Taleb Ali Al Suheil.

Suheil, 64, identified as a key figure in a plot against President Saddam last year, was shot to death at his apartment in Beirut's Ain Al Tineh residential neighbourhood Tuesday night.

Lebanon has formally asked Iraq to lift the diplomatic im-

munity of two of its Beirut diplomats so they can be prosecuted in the assassination.

Foreign Minister Faris Bouez said the Iraqis were caught red-handed. But the Iraqi government denied that either of the two diplomats, in solitary confinement in Lebanese police custody, did anything that violated their diplomatic status and demanded their release.

Both were arrested in front of the Iraqi embassy in east Beirut's Hazmieh residential district shortly after Suheil's murder. They are Mohammad Kazem Faris, 37, the cultural attaché, and Khaled Alwan Khalaf, 35, the embassy's commercial attaché.

Lebanon also has demanded the Iraqi embassy hand over a third Iraqi, Hadi Hassan, the alleged assassin who is believed to be hiding in the embassy compound.

Lebanese examining Magistrate Abdullah Bitar has concluded after interrogating the detained diplomats that they were agents of Iraq's intelligence service who carried out Suheil's assassination at direct orders from Baghdad, authorities have said.

They said Iraqi Consul Ali Sultan Darwish, who allegedly is chief intelligence officer at the embassy, also was wanted for interrogation on suspicions of being the overall mastermind of the assassination.

Mr. Bitar on Friday formally accused a Lebanese Armenian, George Teredjian, of complicity in Mr. Suheil's murder, and ordered him held in solitary confinement, too, Mr. Bitar's office reported.

A statement said Mr. Tered-

jian, a Lebanese employee of the Iraqi embassy, has admitted under interrogation that he guided the three alleged Iraqi assassins to Suheil's house the night of the murder.

Suheil's was the second political assassination in Beirut in less than three months, undermining government efforts to stabilize Lebanon after the 1975-1990 civil war. Jordanian diplomat Nayeb Maaytah was killed Jan. 29.

Beirut was considering severing diplomatic ties with Baghdad over Suheil's assassination, several Beirut newspapers have reported.

Suheil lived in Amman until four months ago. He was married to a Lebanese and came to Lebanon last week to attend the wedding of one of his seven daughters.

King condemns killing

King Hussein sent an envoy to the funeral of Suheil in Beirut, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said on Thursday. King Hussein also expressed deep sorrow over the assassination of Suheil.

In a cable to the family of Suheil, King Hussein said: "It is with deep sorrow and with feelings of anger and abhorrence that I received the news on the killing of an honest Arab brother, Sheikh Taleb Al Suheil, by treacherous criminal hands, drawing their evil power from sick people whose eyes were blinded by grudge."

King Hussein asked the Jordanian charge d'affaires in Beirut to represent him at the funeral and to offer his condolences to his family and to Bani Naim tribes," Petra said.



HORSE RACE: A scene from a 55-kilometre horse race held near Amman on Friday. His Majesty King Hussein presented trophies to the winners. Several members of the Royal family took part in the race (see page 9)

Palestinian economic council ready to roll with 'board of executives'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has completed recruiting a "board of executives" for a council that will take charge of the economic aspects of Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories, PLO officials said Friday.

Once formally installed in office, the "board of executives" will meet one of the key demands of international donors and the World Bank which have been pressing the PLO for "credible" Palestinian institutions to channel aid to support the Palestinian self-rule envisaged under the Sept. 13 accord between Israel and the PLO.

The executives will take direct charge of the nitty-gritty details of economy, such as customs and tariffs, taxation, social security, currency and monetary affairs as well as other aspects of financial administration of the occupied territories under the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR).

In essence, PECDAR is expected to be the Palestinian ministry of finance in the occupied territories pending final-status negotiations with Israel after the interim period as stipulated in the September accord.

The PLO officials said a PECDAR committee selected the executives, who will in effect be heads of departments, who had responded to advertisements in Jordan, Tunisia and the occupied territories.

Many of the interviews were conducted in Amman early this month, they said. The names of the successful candidates have been forwarded to the PLO leadership, and are now awaiting approval from Tunis, where the PLO is headquar-

tered, said a senior PLO official. But the official declined to characterise the recruits.

But other PLO sources said most of those recommended by the interview committee were of Palestinian origin who have had extensive experience in financial administration in the Gulf states and elsewhere.

"They more than meet the basic requirements and qualifications that enable them to be the key figures in the executive side of Palestinian nation-building," said one source. "Many of them have done in the Gulf states, contributing to setting financial administrative structures there and made a success of it."

The list of recruits has to be approved by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, PLO officials said.

The World Bank, which is directly in charge of channelling pledged international aid of up to \$2.4 billion to help support Palestinian self-rule, has been insisting that expertise, rather than political loyalties, guide the selection of key officials in the autonomy structure.

Mr. Arafat chairs PECDAR. His immediate deputies are Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's Political Department and the de facto foreign minister of Palestine, and Mohammad Zuhdi Nashashibi, head of the Economic Department of the PLO.

Ahmad Qouriea, a PLO economic strategist and one of the key figures in the secret Oslo negotiations that led to the autonomy accord, and Sari Nusseibeh, a university professor from the occupied West Bank, are the senior-most executives of the 13-member council.

Several other members who are professional economists have complained that Arafat loyalists rather than people with expertise domin-

ate the council. Some of the critics have announced their suspension of membership in the council, but PLO officials said they had not submitted formal resignations.

Among them are Dr. Youssef Sayegh, a PLO-based Palestinian economist who led the Palestinian side to multilateral talks on economic cooperation.

Samir Abdullah, a noted professor of economics from a West Bank university and member of the multilateral group, has also been critical of the way the PLO leadership was handling its economic approach and the overall peace negotiations with Israel.

The council is expected to meet soon in Tunisia to discuss practical measures to coordinate with the World Bank to channel aid to the self-rule areas, the PLO officials said.

That meeting will be followed by the first meeting of the "board of executives" of PECDAR. "The board will work under the direct supervision of PECDAR in implementing the decisions and policies of the council," said the PLO official.

Jawad Najj, a member of the council and head of the PLO's economic department in Amman, said in a recent interview that the council estimates that it needs up to \$400 million in the first year.

The donors and the World Bank, in a meeting held in Paris in January, decided to allocate up to \$160 million to the council.

Dr. Najj noted that the allocation falls short of PLO estimates, but said the organisation hoped to secure further funds once self-rule is in place.

"We have to start from scratch in the occupied territories," Dr. Najj said, referring to the almost total absence of self-supporting economic structure in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

30 expellees and fugitives to return next week

TUNIS (AP) — Israel has agreed to let 17 Palestinian fugitives join about 30 expellees expected to return to the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank next week, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) sources said Friday.

They will be the second group of Palestinians allowed to return to their homeland under agreements worked out between Israel and the PLO in talks aimed at establishing limited Palestinian autonomy in the occupied territories. The first group of nearly 50 expellees and fugitives returned April 6.

The fugitives had been activists in the intifada that has gripped the occupied territories since December 1987. They will be coming from different countries of refuge including Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt, said the sources.

Some of the fugitives are wanted for attacks on Israelis while others have been sought for killing Palestinians suspected of collaborating with the Israelis.

PLO officials would not release their names for publication for fear of reprisal from families of the suspected Palestinian collaborators who were killed.

Since Israel occupied the West Bank and the Gaza Strip after the 1967 Middle East war, activists have killed hundreds of Palestinians accused of spying on their fellow Arabs or of collaborating with the occupation forces.

Akram Haniyeh, who was expelled in 1967 for his anti-Israeli activities, is among those being allowed to return. He told the Associated Press he expected to be in the West Bank town of Ramallah next week.

Mr. Haniyeh helped organise the intifada from exile in Tunis and is the most prominent PLO leader to be allowed to return to the West Bank.

His return is expected to help shore up Yasser Arafat's sinking credibility among the Palestinians and pave the way for the PLO leader's move to the territories after Israel's withdrawal.

However, Mr. Arafat has delayed the return of two other key aides whom Israel has said can go home, Jibril Al Rajoub and Mohammad Dahlan.

Mr. Rajoub is Mr. Arafat's security aide in Tunis and an adviser for West Bank affairs. Mr. Dahlan is responsible for Fatah organisation in Gaza and is with the PLO negotiations team in Cairo.

There was no official explanation for the postponement of their return, but it could be linked to a decision by Mr. Arafat to close 27 PLO offices in the West Bank and Gaza.

Israel promised to endorse by Sunday the final list of names in the second batch of returnees, who were expected to head home within days of the endorsement.

Hillary gets award, Trudeau gets egg

NEW YORK (R) — First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton received a humanitarian award Thursday evening, but it was actress and singer Barbra Streisand who got much of the attention, showing up with former beau Pierre Trudeau, the former Canadian Prime Minister. Mrs. Clinton was presented with the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity Award for her work with the nation's children, especially the poor. She was honoured at a dinner at the New York Public Library. But it was Mr. Streisand and Mr. Trudeau who had attracted much of the attention at the gala event. Mr. Streisand, who will begin a record-breaking tour of the United States and Britain soon, came to the event with Mr. Trudeau. The two had dated in the early 1970s. It was a slightly inauspicious start for the high-flying former Canadian leader. However, he arrived at the event with his smart attire smeared with a broken egg which had been thrown by demonstrators protesting against what they described as Turkish genocide against the Armenians. The group was attracted to the event by a planned appearance at the dinner of the prime minister of Turkey, Tansu Ciller. Previous recipients of the Elie Wiesel Award have included President George Bush, and King Juan Carlos of Spain.

errant British aristocrat in hot water again

LONDON (R) — Police Friday arrested Jamie Blandford, the wealthy heir to one of Britain's top aristocratic titles, and charged him with disorderly conduct less than 24 hours after he appeared in court on other charges. The Marquess of Blandford was released on bail and ordered to appear before a central London magistrates' court on May 20. He was charged with using offensive language and behaviour in an incident at a late-night nightclub in the early hours of Friday. On Thursday, Blandford, whose antics regularly feature in Britain's tabloid newspapers, pleaded guilty in a London court to stealing a cheque book and foreign cheques but denied making off without paying a taxi fare. He was released on bail. Blandford, who stands to inherit the historic £100 million (\$150 million) Blenheim Palace estate when his father dies, was arrested on April 6 after, he failed to turn up in court to answer the cheque book and taxi fare charges. The 38-year-old heir to the Duke of Marlborough has had several brushes with the law in the past few years, including offences of drugs possession and drunk driving. In a previous incident he climbed down a drainpipe to avoid police. Blandford also recently spent three days in jail after failing to pay maintenance to his estranged wife and his son.

43 people suspected of cornea smuggling

ROME (R) — Magistrates are investigating 43 people in a widening inquiry into allegations that human corneas were smuggled from Eastern Europe and the U.S. to Italy, where they were used in transplants, police said. They said that 13 businessmen, 26 health workers and four hospital officials were being investigated. The probe began last November when two nurses at a Rome hospital told investigating magistrates that the eye of a deceased patient had been removed and replaced with glass. The cornea is the front covering of the eye and provides most of its focusing power. Police Colonel Gianfranco Dainese said magistrates were investigating several Italian companies on suspicion of importing corneas from Russia and the United States and sold them in Italy for use in transplants. He did not name the firms. "We believe they were in contact with suppliers in St. Petersburg who acquired the corneas in Eastern Europe," he said. Corneas fetch up to \$70 in Eastern Europe but Italian doctors charge about \$7,000 for a transplant. Investigators were also examining the possibility that corneas were imported from Baltimore in the United States, Col. Dainese said.

Russia gets most of Black Sea fleet

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk of Ukraine signed an agreement on Friday giving Russia the bulk of the prized Black Sea fleet, ITAR-TASS reported.

The two leaders, who met one on one after the meeting of leaders of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), agreed that Russia would get 80 per cent of the ships, the news agency said.

Russia and Ukraine have squabbled over ownership of the fleet of 440 ships — many of them small and in poor condition — since the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991.

The agreement signed Friday night calls for the Russian Black-Sea fleet and the Ukrainian navy to have separate bases.

Details on the division of the fleet are to be worked out in the next 10 days, ITAR-TASS said.

Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Kravchuk also agreed to prepare a draft friendship and cooperation treaty between the two

countries. Mr. Yeltsin accepted Mr. Kravchuk's invitation to visit Ukraine in the near future.

The agreement showed the leaders' determination to back away from a brewing crisis between the two most powerful of the former Soviet republics, both of which have nuclear weapons.

Earlier Friday, a flotilla of Russian-controlled warships had taken to sea as a result of the latest conflict over the fleet.

"We know at least nine ships have left their moorings, but we don't know whether they are just training or are preparing to start a war," Mikola Savchenko, spokeswoman for the Ukrainian navy in Sevastopol, told the Associated Press.

Russian officials said the ships were starting an ordinary training exercise unrelated to tensions between the two countries.

The Interfax and ITAR-TASS news agencies said the flotilla numbered 15 vessels, including 12 that left Black Sea

ports on Friday.

Mr. Savchenko claimed Russian officers had not informed their Ukrainian partners in the fleet's operational command what movements the vessels would make.

"All we know is they are fully equipped with weapons, in a state of battle readiness, and could start a war if they so decide," he said.

Mr. Yeltsin had declined to give his views on the conflict before the start of his private talks with Mr. Kravchuk, telling reporters: "Let us not complicate things before the meeting. The situation is complex anyway."

But Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, in a harsh comment, claimed the entire fleet was Russian.

"How can Russia view the Black Sea fleet otherwise if it has fully financed it since September 1993? Therefore I state unequivocally that the Black Sea fleet, even by its means of existence, is Russian," he said.

Jackson urges quick implementation of Israel-PLO accord

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Reverend Jesse Jackson, who just returned from the Middle East, is urging Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat to meet at the negotiating table and work out together a quick implementation of the declaration of principles.

The U.S. civil rights activist met with Israeli and Palestinian leaders as well as Christian, Jewish and Muslim religious leaders while in Israel and the occupied territories April 7-15. Mr. Jackson briefed reporters on his trip during a press conference Thursday, sponsored by the Arab American Institute.

Mr. Jackson said he spoke daily with Mr. Arafat and the Israeli leadership while he was in the region, "urging them to get back to the table."

He stressed his belief that Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat must themselves meet and work out the remaining obstacles to implementing the declaration of principles and called on President Bill Clinton to facilitate such a meeting.

"A new framework for peace — the declaration of principles — has been signed... This framework must now be made finished," he said. This task, he stressed, "must not be left in the hands of bureaucrats."

"The primary forces have to meet... The new option of peace is real. We must not lose time to cynics and saboteurs," Mr. Jackson said.

He said he appealed to Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat "to get to the table themselves, (and) work out the remaining details."

Mr. Jackson said he strongly believes once Mr. Arafat and the Palestinian leadership are on the ground in Jericho and Gaza, the process begun by the accord will be "irreversible."

"Once on the ground, the worst fears would have come and gone and new realities start," he said. Efforts, therefore, should focus on implementing the accord and "getting Arafat and the PLO leadership to Jericho and Gaza."

Recounting the cycle of violence since the massacre of Palestinian worshippers in Hebron by Jewish settlers in February and the subsequent acts of retaliation by extremists who have killed Israelis, Mr. Jackson stressed that "time is not on the side of the agreement."

The forces of violence and the "politics of fear," he said, "have the momentum."

"The momentum has to be regained," he stressed. "Delay in implementation feeds those forces. Every crackdown creates another embedded body of embittered people..."

Mr. Jackson said he met with both Jewish, Christian and Islamic religious leaders while in Israel and the occupied territories and discussed with them the cycle of violence now taking place there.

"What must religiousists do?" Mr. Jackson asked. "In



Jesse Jackson

the name of their God they must renounce terrorism. All parties have to choose to stop killing each other."

On the Palestinian side, Mr. Jackson said fundamental decisions must be made in the coming days by the Palestinian leadership and the Palestinian masses. "The Palestinians, he said, must decide whether to follow a policy of 'getting even or getting ahead.'"

Mr. Jackson made clear what path he believes the Palestinians must follow: "Getting ahead ultimately has more advantages than getting even." The policy of "getting even" will not yield freedom, he stressed.

Asked to comment on the Islamic opposition's argument against the accord with Israel, Mr. Jackson said "the opposition may have a strong argument, but they have nothing to show for their arguments."

"Their argument is 'all or nothing' — they will get nothing now. Reiterating anger and hatred towards Israel is not a solution."

Violence has been used as a means of gaining freedom, he said, and "it failed." Peace, Mr. Jackson said, "is the only bearer of fruit."

Kuwait considers debt law change

KUWAIT (R) — There are signs that the Kuwaiti government might damage its credibility by trying to amend fundamental aspects of a law aimed at settling \$19 billion in bad debt, an economic consultancy said on Saturday.

"There have been signs of slackness in the government's attitude," Al Shail Consultancy said in a weekly commentary.

"An acceptable attitude would be one that was confined to procedural aspects or to overcome shortfalls in that regard," the private consultancy said. "However, what has been attributed to the government would touch the core of financial particularities — even though the government has repeatedly highlighted its own acute financial status."

The debt, which has cast a pall over the economy for years, stems partly from the 1982 crash of an unofficial stock exchange and from commercial losses worsened by Iraq's 1990-91 occupation.

Economists say a successful repayment programme would revive the stagnant economy. It would stimulate new lending by commercial banks long starved of good credit risks and reduce the financial burden on the state, which owns the debt.

Cabinet reshuffled

On Wednesday, in a long-awaited cabinet reshuffle, Kuwait's prime minister

announced a new government in which members of the ruling Al Sabah family continued to hold the four key portfolios.

Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, who also is the crown prince, sacked Oil Minister Ali Al Baghli, and appointed in his place Abdul Mohsen Al Madaj, a 45-year-old professor of history at Kuwait University.

Both Mr. Baghli and his successor are members of the 50-seat parliament, which has been calling for wider participation of deputies in the government.

But Sheikh Saad's new cabinet included only five deputies instead of the six who served in the outgoing government.

In the new cabinet, the defence and interior ministers swapped portfolios. Sheikh Ahmad Al Humoud Al Sabah became defence minister, and Sheikh Ali Al Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah became interior minister.

Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah and Information Minister Sheikh Nasser Al Sabah kept the same posts they held in the outgoing cabinet, which was formed in October 1992.

Finance Minister Nasser Al Rowdhan also kept his portfolio.

Sheikh Saad replaced Trade Minister Abdullah Al Hajiri, a parliament member, with a little known technocrat, Hilal Al Mutairi, who is not a member of parliament.

Israelis round up young Palestinians

(Continued from page 1)

"Massive arrests of Hamas and Islamic Jihad people in the territories may impede these organisations in their activities and decrease terrorist activities," wrote Zeev Schiff, the military affairs columnist for the respected Haaretz daily, adding that some doubt such measures are sufficient. An attempt to expel 400 leaders to Lebanon in December 1992 halted peace talks and Lebanon refused to take them.

Hamas has announced it will carry out a total five attacks on buses to revenge the Feb. 25 mosque massacre, when a Jewish settler gunned down more than 30 Muslim worshippers in Hebron. It warned Israeli Arabs to stay away from Israeli crowds, since at least five have been killed or wounded in the attacks.

On Wednesday Amarnah exploded a bomb on a bus in the Israeli town of Hadera killing five and himself. On April 6, a suicide car-bomb exploded next to an Israeli bus in Afula, killing seven and wounding 45.

Hamas took responsibility for both attacks.

Israelis are incensed by both the carnage and the obvious glee it generates at rallies and other public gatherings among Palestinians. They are also aware that the attacks assuage a sense of helplessness created by 27 years of occupation and repeated defeats to the Israeli

military since the country was created in 1948.

"Each suicide attacker who succeeds produces the next suicide attacker," said analyst Alex Fishman, writing in the mass-circulation Maariv daily.

Clerics from Hamas and its offshoot, Islamic Jihad, use the attacks to appeal to more youths to carry out such missions. Most recruits have already turned to religion as the only escape from chronic unemployment and the occupation.

Suicide attackers are given elaborate memorial ceremonies designed to add glamour to death in the otherwise desperate shantytowns of the Gaza Strip or agricultural villages in the West Bank that lack basic amenities like clinics, telephones and even electricity.

Fiery speakers urge spectators to follow in the footsteps of the dead man as a way to please God and enjoy his glories. Aside from a martyr gaining a seat near God in paradise, speakers stress material rewards ranging from 70 wives to endless banquets.

As Rami Abul Kheir, an 18-year-old attending one recent Gaza rally said, a martyr "has everything we don't have here."

Most believe that unless Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat can produce development and jobs under autonomy to reverse this sense of hopelessness, Gaza will keep producing men willing to die for the cause.